

NATO'S UNHAPPY BIRTHDAY

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Page 7. Page 5. Pages 6-7. Pages 18-19. www.trib.com

What to Do If Bombings Don't Work In Balkans?

Winter Would Hamper Ground Troops and Limit Aerial Protection

By Michael R. Gordon
New York Times Service

BRUSSELS — After four weeks of air strikes against Yugoslavia, NATO still lacks a military plan that would ensure the eviction of Serbian forces from Kosovo and autonomy for the region's ethnic Albanians.

There is broad agreement within the alliance that the bombing needs to continue in the hope that it will eventually persuade President Slobodan Milosevic to meet NATO's terms.

But what if several more months of bombing raids do not compel Mr. Milosevic to withdraw his forces from Kosovo? While NATO's military commanders have insisted that air strikes are delivering a punishing blow to the Serbian military, they have never guaranteed that air power alone can deliver a victory.

And what if the air campaign produces more cases of "collateral damage" — the military's antiseptic term for the accidental bombing of civilians — and public support for protracted bombing begins to wane?

Allied nations might then want to consider ground troops to bring the war to a speedy close. Unless NATO starts assembling a ground force soon, however, the alliance may not have the option of mounting an effective land attack if it needs it.

Nobody at NATO is eager to rush into a land war. But if the alliance decides to turn to ground troops, military experts say, they should go in before the weather begins to worsen in September and October. Clear skies and unhampered air power would be needed to protect the troops. It would also be best if Western troops did not have to endure a winter war.

Given everything that would be needed to have the option of using combat troops this summer, however, the United States and other NATO allies have moved very slowly.

Seeking to quiet the criticism in Congress that NATO lacks a backup plan to use ground troops, the Clinton administration said Wednesday that it favors "updating" the options allied military planners developed last summer for

See TROOPS, Page 4

Air Strikes Destroy Milosevic's Villa



The state residence of President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade after a NATO air strike destroyed it Thursday.

Anniversary Gala Recast As a Major War Council

Kosovo Dictates Agenda at NATO Summit

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Long planned as an extravaganza celebrating NATO's 50th year as a peacetime alliance, the summit meeting that opens Friday in Washington finds allied leaders grappling with a brutal, frustrating and unconventional war in Kosovo, Europe's biggest conflict since World War II.

In the face of that reality, the event planned to celebrate NATO's past and give a fillip to its future has become instead a defining moment for the war — a moment more decisive for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization than the reams of commitments on paper that have been prepared for the occasion.

Military fly-bys have been dropped from the schedule, as have banquets with Hollywood entertainment. Evening clothes have been left behind.

The biggest-ever summit meeting in the U.S. capital, involving the leaders of 19 allied nations, plus the presence of 25 more countries involved in alliance activities, has been recast as a wartime conference to shape the alliance's strategy as leaders try to get a fresh grip

on a Balkans conflict that has proved stubbornly different from the defensive war in Central Europe that NATO had prepared to fight.

A month after launching the air offensive against the forces of Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav president, allied leaders face even tougher decisions. They must weigh conditions for starting a ground war in Kosovo, ways of stabilizing the fragile front-line countries around the conflict and ideas for meeting the costs of rebuilding postwar Kosovo — and also Macedonia and Albania, and ultimately, Serbia.

If they fail, Western leaders could live to recall this weekend in Washington as the end of what has promised to be widened and deepened trans-Atlantic cooperation on international security in the post-Cold War era.

NATO, after proving its effectiveness in Bosnia, gained recognition as the indispensable mainstay of security in Europe, and the allies, led by the Clinton administration, were seeking ways to expand on this new stable core. Many of these plans are at stake, suddenly, in the

EU Nations Close To Oil Embargo

After more than a month of air attacks in which oil refining and storage facilities have been key targets, the European Union was close Thursday to imposing an oil embargo on Yugoslavia. A European Commission spokesman said the embargo probably would go into effect next week. Page 4.

struggle against Mr. Milosevic and his Serbian forces, whose resistance has surprised NATO planners.

The alliance has always been prepared for a defensive war against an aggressor with sophisticated weapons. Now it has to retol, militarily and politically, for an expedition against a small but determined army fighting with low-technology weapons — including refugee flows — that Western leaders had underestimated and perhaps even forgotten.

The decisions facing NATO now are crucial for President Bill Clinton, and for Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain and President Jacques Chirac of France, all of whom know that their political careers and place in history will be marked by the outcome in Kosovo.

A litmus test in the eyes of many people, undoubtedly including Mr. Milosevic, will be the success or failure of

See NATO, Page 4

Serbian Leader Said to Accept UN Presence

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — In the most audacious blow yet against the Yugoslav leadership, NATO missiles destroyed one of President Slobodan Milosevic's two official residences in Belgrade on Thursday, even as the alliance stepped up its pressure by announcing a review of contingency plans for a ground invasion.

A Russian special envoy, meanwhile, said Thursday that President Milosevic had accepted the idea of an "international presence" in Kosovo under United Nations auspices if the NATO bombing stopped and the alliance withdrew its troops from Yugoslavia's borders.

The Itar-Tass press agency said the envoy, Viktor Chernomyrdin, speaking with reporters in Belgrade, had referred to "international forces." It was unclear, however, whether such a force would be armed and under what guidelines it would operate. Mr. Milosevic has previously opposed allowing foreign troops onto its soil in the conflict with NATO. NATO has insisted on an armed presence in Kosovo to enforce any peace agreement.

President Bill Clinton, asked about the Chernomyrdin report, said, "If there is an offer for a genuine security force, that's the first time Mr. Milosevic has done that, and that represents, I suppose, some step forward."

The Pentagon justified the attack the Milosevic residence, in the exclusive Dedinje residential area of Belgrade, as an attempt to cut off "the head" of a government that has waged a merciless assault on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, forcing hundreds of thousands to flee.

It said the house was a suspected "presidential command center" for the military and police forces in Kosovo. Mr. Milosevic and his family were not in the villa and no deaths or injuries were reported.

Assassination of foreign leaders is barred by U.S. law. Kenneth Bacon, the Pentagon spokesman, said that NATO was not targeting "Milosevic or the Serb people," but, instead, "the military and the military infrastructure that supports the instruments of oppression in Kosovo."

The NATO secretary-general, Javier Solana, told The Washington Post hours before the attack that while he expected the air campaign against Serbia to succeed, he had authorized alliance commanders to update plans for a possible ground invasion.

Speaking Thursday after meeting

See KOSOVO, Page 4

Profit Surprises Lift Stock Prices

First-quarter earnings reports from U.S. companies are pouring in, and they are pleasing investors, who drove the Dow Jones industrial average to record levels Thursday. Now, Wall Street strategists are raising their profit forecasts. Page 11.

AGENDA

Reversal on Tax Soothes Jamaica

Life began returning to normal in Jamaica on Thursday after the prime minister said he would reconsider a gasoline-price increase that touched off three days of riots. Prime Minister P.J. Patterson said he would recommend a rollback of the gasoline tax after fiery roadblocks, looting and shootings forced businesses and schools to shut down this week. At least seven people were killed and 23 seriously injured.

Barricades were removed from roads into Kingston, the capital, after overnight curfews. Page 10.

Books... Page 9.
Crossword... Page 9.
Opinion... Pages 6-7.
Sports... Pages 18-19.

The Internet... Pages 7, 18.

The Internet online... www.trib.com

Korean Air Names Nonfamily Chief

A professional executive replaced a member of the owning family as president of accident-troubled Korean Air on Thursday, making a pledge "to do what it takes to ensure safety." Page 11.

2 Telecoms Pushing Plan For Europe 'Powerhouse'

Market Shows Doubt on German-Italian Deal

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — After reaching agreement overnight on plans for the world's largest merger, Deutsche Telekom AG and Telecom Italia SpA embarked on a campaign Thursday to win over their skeptical governments and shareholders by promising to forge "Europe's global telecommunications powerhouse."

The \$90 billion proposal would create the world's third-largest telephone company by market value, its second-largest in terms of wireless subscribers and its largest in terms of fixed-line customers, with 22 million lines reaching one-quarter of the European Union's population.

But a sharp fall in Deutsche Telekom's share price Thursday sent a clear signal that the agreement was anything but a done deal. It faced stiff competition from a competing \$65 billion offer for Telecom Italia from Olivetti SpA, political concerns in Rome about control of the combined group, a prob-

able six-month European antitrust review and serious questions from investors about the ability of the two companies to create a common culture and compete effectively.

Given the obstacles, Deutsche Telekom and Telecom Italia mounted a two-pronged strategy that attempted to address the national considerations of old-style European corporatism as well as the new emphasis on shareholder value sweeping Europe in the wake of the introduction of the single currency in 11 countries Jan. 1.

Mindful of the important role played by governments, particularly in Rome, where many politicians fear that the deal would effectively strip Italy of a vital national asset, the two companies appealed openly for support by urging politicians to raise their horizons to the European and global level.

"Our governments must support the transition to a new industrial era, which will have telecoms as the building blocks of the new economy," said Franco Bernabè, chief executive of Telecom Italia.

"We have missed Silicon Valley in Europe," said his German counterpart, the Deutsche Telekom chief Ron Sommer. "We don't want to miss Telecom Valley."

There was no immediate reaction from the Italian government, which this week designated that any deal be a merger of equals.

While the two companies would share management control equally, shareholders of Deutsche Telekom led by the German government — would control 56 percent of the combined company.

The two companies also hoped that

See DEAL, Page 12

Where Alienated Youths Are Armed but Not Heard



Students hugging during a prayer vigil for the shooting victims.

By Timothy Egan
New York Times Service

SEATTLE — The fact that the worst school shooting in modern times happened in one of those places to which Americans tend to move because they are seeking good schools — in this case, Jefferson County, Colorado, one of the fastest-growing areas in the United States — came as no surprise to Suzanne Wilson.

Propelled by grief, Ms. Wilson has spent the last year trying to make sense of the recent carnage in playgrounds and libraries. She lost her own daughter, Britney, 12, to a pair of middle-school students in Jonesboro, Arkansas, last year.

She has listened to all the psychiatrists, school counselors, lawyers and specialists in youth violence, and what she has concluded is this: The places that might seem least likely to yield horrific violence are the very places Americans should look for answers.

In these towns — the Springfield, Oregon, of new malls and big houses on

one-acre lots, the West Paducah, Kentucky, of horse trails and tree forts — the details of such violence are similar.

A mixture of heavy firepower, alienated youths whose threats are largely ignored, and a popular culture of violent and nihilistic messages predominate.

"Our children are telling us things," Ms. Wilson said, "and we are not hearing them."

"The other thing is that the children in these cases all have guns," she said. "These wouldn't be massacres if they involved just knives or baseball bats."

The guns used Tuesday — two shotguns, a semiautomatic pistol and a 9mm semiautomatic assault rifle — would fit in the arsenal of the culprits in other major school shootings.

Whether details about the weapons will alter the debate over gun control, now focused on laws requiring adults who own guns to keep them under lock and key, is hard to judge. But on Wednesday, a bill that would have loosened controls on people who carry con-

See SCHOOL, Page 3

Bravery Amid Mayhem: Heroes Stepped Forward

By David Von Drehle
and Daniel LeDuc
Washington Post Service

LITTLETON, Colorado — There were killers in the halls of Columbine High School, yes. But there were also students like Aaron Hancey and teachers like Dave Sanders.

When the explosions roared and bullets began flying, panicked students saw Mr. Sanders, the much-loved coach of the girls' basketball and softball teams, standing bravely in a smoke-filled hallway, urgently directing them toward an escape route.

Suddenly, the teacher, a longtime

Columbine fixture, was reeling, shot twice, with wounds through the chest. He staggered through the door of a nearby classroom, where terrified teenagers saw him begin to cough blood.

Panic: Did anyone know first aid? A teacher rushed to the next room, where he found Aaron, 17, a junior with Boy Scout training in first aid.

Swallowing his fear, he followed the teacher, Kent Friesen.

He found Mr. Sanders in a red pool on the white linoleum floor. Aaron peeled off his white T-shirt and urged the other boys in the room to do the same.

Some of the clothes were made into a pillow. Other shirts were pressed into Mr. Sanders's wounds.

There was a telephone in the room, and Aaron called his father, who used a second line to call paramedics. The elder Hancey relayed questions and advice. For the next three hours, Aaron led a children's crusade, trying to save their teacher's life.

They pressed constantly on the wounds. They found blankets to keep their patient warm. Gingerly, they extracted Mr. Sanders's wallet and held it open before his eyes so he could see the pictures of his wife and daughters.

"I'm not going to make it," one of

the youngsters heard Mr. Sanders say. Aaron Hancey didn't give up.

Madness. Terror. Malignancy. Cruelty. Shock. Evil. They all came visiting Tuesday in Littleton.

But also courage. Kindness. Selflessness. Endurance.

The story of that catastrophe inside Columbine High is still sketchy, shadowy and confused. But by day's end Wednesday, enough was known to understand that this story had heroes to go with its villains.

It was a good time of year. Students were still talking about the previous

See HEROES, Page 3



The Death of Senor Wences / His Hand Did the Talking

A '50s Echo: 'You All Right?' 'S'all Right' 'Very Good'

By Richard Severo
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Wenceslao Moreno, who started his career as an unsuccessful bull-fighter in Spain and then became Senor Wences, a gifted ventriloquist who was able to transform his thumb and forefinger into a convincing dummy that endeared itself to millions of American television viewers in the 1950s and '60s, died Tuesday, his 103d birthday, at his home in Manhattan.

In a career that lasted more than eight decades, Senor Wences repeatedly proved himself a stellar part of the tradition that included Edgar Bergen, Paul Winchell and other popular ventriloquists who delighted audiences from the 1920s well into the television age.

What set Senor Wences apart from everyone else was that his main character was not carved out of wood, as were Bergen's Charlie McCarthy and Winchell's Jerry Mahoney. Johnny, Senor Wences' dummy, was simply formed by his right hand. He painted lips on his thumb, draped a ridiculous orange wig across his fist, stuck eyes on the side of his hand, just below the wig, and let the hint of a body dangle below. As soon as he began his act, this unlikely creation came to life as Johnny, a lovable, impertinent little boy, not unlike the boy Senor Wences had been.

It was shortly after the turn of the century in Spain that Wenceslao Moreno found that he could imitate others and throw his voice. In school, when one of his classmates was absent, he would answer for him, and the teacher would mark the missing student present.

In those days, he had a friend named Paulo. The friend's mother would appear at an upstairs window and call for her boy to come home.

"No, Mama," a voice sounding like Paulo would say, "I refuse to come into the house." When the mother demanded that her son obey, the voice would continue in defiance:

"Mama, you attend to your own business, and I will attend to mine."

Poor Paulo got the dickens on several occasions, until it was discovered that he had not been the culprit.

Other times Senor Wences successfully imitated the voice of the mailman, telling the tenants of his apartment house that the mail was there and ready for distribution. (There were no mailboxes.) All of the tenants would dutifully come down the stairs and assemble at the front door, only to find that no mailman was there. In one instance, an angry tenant dumped a pail of water on the real mailman's head to teach him not to trifle with the residents of that building.

The little sprit of a voice and impish personality emerged to a widespread audience decades later, in the United States in 1948, when Senor Wences made his television debut and introduced Johnny to virtually the nation's entire television audience, which assembled Tuesday nights to watch Milton Berle's variety hour.

Shortly thereafter Senor Wences made the first of 48 appearances on Ed Sullivan's show. Neither Mr. Sullivan nor his audience ever tired of Senor Wences.

Senor Wences' Johnny was not a rake or a wise guy, like Charlie McCarthy. He was a disembodied insouciant whose single-minded purpose was to tease Senor Wences in little ways, as small boys are wont to do. And so, if Senor Wences announced to his audience that a certain trick was going to be "very difficult," Johnny's little voice would insist that it was "easy." If Mr. Wences gave Johnny a dirty look, Johnny would add, "Difficult for you, easy for me."

In the conversations that ensued, Johnny would seem to be a completely separate being from Senor Wences, quite capable of saying anything. There were no jokes, per se. Just snippets of silly but strangely eloquent conversation. And the exchanges were always polite, gentle; segments ended with kisses between Johnny and Senor Wences.

Johnny was not the only star Senor Wences developed. The other was Pedro, a talking head in a covered box. Pedro was grouchy, imperious, raspy.

He almost did not become part of the act. Originally, Pedro had a body that was crushed in a train wreck near Chicago. Senor Wences, salvaging the head, put it in a box. At first, those who booked the act resisted; they did not think people would relate to a head in a box. But Senor Wences prevailed.

Whatever happened in the act, whatever pandemonium there might be, Senor Wences would always open the box and say to Pedro, "You all right?"

Pedro would always respond, "S'all right," to which Senor Wences would say, "Very good." If Senor Wences presumed too much and opened the box when Pedro preferred privacy, Pedro would demand, "Shut the door!"

When Pedro and Johnny were simultaneously in action, it seemed a wonder that Senor Wences could get through his shows in full control. He had a palpable Spanish accent, and there were times when some found it difficult to understand him. The laughs came just the same; his timing and the gentleness of his message were such that he transcended the bounds of language.

Senor Wences, who was also a formidable juggler, started out as a young torero in local bull rings near Salamanca. After several bulls got the best of him, he turned to ventriloquism and juggling. By the 1930s he was in demand in Europe and Latin America. He first came to New York in 1935. But it was not until he got on television that he became truly famous.

In 1996, Senor Wences received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Comedy Hall of Fame, and he was honored by New York City, which designated a block of West 54th Street from Eighth Avenue to Broadway as Senor Wences Way.



Wenceslao Moreno, better known as Senor Wences, had a palpable Spanish accent, and some in the audience found it hard to understand him. But the laughs came just the same.

Maya Throne May Reveal Answers to Old Mystery

By Julia Preston
New York Times Service

MEXICO CITY — In rain forests at the foot of the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexican and U.S. archaeologists have uncovered a monumental artwork that appears to be one of the most revealing artifacts that has been found from the resplendent but mysterious final years of ancient Mayan civilization.

While digging through a crumbling temple at Palenque, site of some of the most refined Mayan ruins in Mesoamerica, the researchers came upon a bench-like throne more than 2.7 meters (9 feet) wide and 1.5 meters deep in vermilion-painted limestone, which one of the last Mayan rulers built around 760 to dazzle his subjects and persuade them of his god-given right to power.

What became of the Classic Mayans, who developed the only pre-Columbian writing in the Americas and devised an intricate astronomy to chart the movements of the heavens, is one of the great puzzles of archaeology.

During the ninth century, flourishing cities like Palenque were abruptly abandoned, in what seems to have been a cultural collapse.

The Palenque throne is adorned with at least 200 hieroglyphs and six sculptured portraits that, based on the experts' first reading, disclose the achievements and illusions of the Mayan nobility in the decades just before their demise.

The discovery also signifies a high point of cooperation between Mexican and U.S. archaeologists, after a long period in which Mexico was uneasy about foreigners digging in its pre-Hispanic sites.

To show Mexican enthusiasm for the find, President Ernesto Zedillo flew to Palenque to display the throne.

The Palenque explorations are being carried out by a team led by Arnoldo Gonzalez Cruz of the National Institute of Anthropology and History in Mexico City and Alfonso Morales of the University of Texas at Austin.

The project is largely financed and directed by the Pre-Columbian Art Research Institute of San Francisco.

"We're working as a group," said Mr. Morales, who has been keenly aware of Mexican sensitivities about the excavation. "No one can say, 'This is my throne.' That is my temple."

Mr. Morales said the grandeur of the throne and the spaciousness of the palace that houses it indicate that the last rulers of Palenque were more ambitious and proud of their power than had been understood.

The newly found throne belonged to a monarch descended from a Mayan king named Pakal and is part of what is emerging as a construction program by later rulers even more extensive than that of the vainglorious Pakal. The throne carries more inscriptions laden with more historical information than any other in the Mayan world, archaeologists said.

Mr. Morales and other experts say that mapping the building projects could be crucial to reaching a new understanding of the Maya decline. The scientists have theorized that the logging required for the stucco construction may have depleted forests and compounded ecological changes, perhaps undermining agriculture and forcing the Mayans to migrate to less hospitable territory.

Rwanda Turning to Its Traditional Ways to Do Justice

By Ian Fisher
New York Times Service

KIGALI, Rwanda — The word *gacaca* in the Kinyarwanda language spoken here refers to the grass that village elders once sat on as they mediated the disputes of rural life in Rwanda: a cow trampled someone's crops, or bad blood arose between two families.

Now the Rwandan government is proposing a modified version of *gacaca* to settle one of the most contentious issues left from the mass killings of 500,000 or more Tutsi in 1994: how to judge, the 125,000 people, almost all Hutu, still in jail and charged in the massacres and other crimes of the period.

Under the proposal, the most serious accusations — murder, planning murder, rape — would remain in the justice system, but local communities would judge suspects outside the justice system.

The plan is still amorphous. But it has raised strong feelings in Rwanda, where the wounds from 1994 are still fresh and

relations between the two ethnic groups are far from friendly.

Late last month, a town meeting in Kigali was devoted to *gacaca* (pronounced ga-CHA-cha), and it went on for three and a half hours. People watching on television and listening to radio called from around the country.

Even the proposal's strongest supporters are urging caution; because the approach does not rely on impartial panels to judge but on people from the very communities where the crimes took place.

Roman Catholic bishops recently expressed their concern about *gacaca* to the prime minister, worrying that it might become an instrument of injustice.

Many Hutu worry that the tribunals will devolve into a witch hunt. Many Tutsi worry that suspects may get off easy in communities that are predominantly Hutu.

"There is a kind of ethnic tension which is persistent in the population,"

said Aloys Habimana, director of the Rwandan League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights. "And as far as they are unable to overcome this, it will be difficult for them to be fair."

Still, Mr. Habimana stands firmly behind the proposal.

"I'm not saying that they will be 100

Local communities would judge suspects not facing the most serious accusations.

percent fair," he said. "But in the situation where we are, we will have to accept certain risks. Even the trials we have now, can you say they are 100 percent fair?"

What prompted the government to make the proposal is the fear that the justice system has proved unable to judge so many people.

The number of suspects jailed on charges connected to the killings has slipped to just under 125,000, from

130,000 several years ago. In the last two years only 1,274 people have been tried, Mr. Habimana said.

At that rate, as Rwandans are fond of pointing out, it could take a hundred years to complete the trials.

Last year alone, 2,500 suspects died in the 19 prisons, largely of AIDS, tuberculosis or typhoid, according to Penal Reform International, which runs programs here.

Many prisoners think *gacaca* is a good idea.

"Once we go to the place where we are, this man has done nothing," said Azalyas Rukizangabo, 54, who is accused of killing two women and has been in jail for three years.

But in Nyarubuye district, a police prosecutor, Abbey Alphonse Mazi-mpaka, said the massacres were too serious to be settled by *gacaca*.

"Gacaca is the reconciliation between the victim and the criminal," he said. "After negotiating, you reconcile."

But how can a person negotiate with someone who did these acts of bloodshed and sexual torture? It's impossible," he said.

The justice minister, Jean de Dieu Mucyo, said *gacaca* is aimed not only at clearing the prisons but also at speeding reconciliation between Hutu and Tutsi. It would not begin until next year at the earliest, and the government is first planning a test run.

"Without the truth coming out, everyone is holding feelings inside and it's really oppressive to the heart," Mr. Mucyo said. "But if the truth can come out, everyone can know what happened: 'This one killed my brother,' or 'My son is in jail for this reason.' With the truth coming out, everyone will be relieved."

The proposed model for *gacaca* is much like Rwandan society itself: highly organized and hierarchical. The charges would be broken down into four categories. Hearings would take place on four administrative levels, depending on the seriousness of the crime, with judges elected from each community.

BRIEFLY

Israel and Egypt Urge Delay In Palestinian Statehood Move

CAIRO — Presidents Ezer Weizman of Israel and Hosni Mubarak of Egypt advised the Palestinians on Thursday to postpone proclaiming a state until the climate cools after Israeli elections next month.

"The atmosphere in Israel is very hot, so let's wait a couple of months," Mr. Weizman said at a news conference with the Egyptian leader after more than two hours of private talks and a luncheon. Israel will vote May 17.

"Egypt backs the Palestinians but we hope that they will take a decision that will satisfy everyone," Mr. Mubarak said. Asked if he expected a crisis to erupt if a Palestinian state should be declared on May 4, Mr. Mubarak answered: "I hope not."

UN Criticizes Fight on AIDS

GENEVA — Government spending to combat AIDS has failed drastically to keep pace with the spread of the disease around the world, now infecting nearly 6 million people each year, the United Nations said Thursday.

"It is alarming that AIDS is expanding three times faster than the funding to control it," said Dr. Peter Piot, executive director of the Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS.

The agency said wealthy countries' support for the global fight against AIDS "is being vastly outpaced by the epidemic," which has infected 47 million people over the past two decades.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Air France Strike at Nice Extended

PARIS (Bloomberg) — Air France ground staff at Nice airport, France's third-busiest airport, extended their strike Thursday into a seventh day, forcing the airline again to reroute flights to Toulon and to cancel service between Nice and other European cities.

The airline also said some ground workers walked off the job at Orly Airport near Paris early Thursday, though the walkout was not expected to have an additional effect on Paris flights.

Gain Is Seen for Low-Fare Airlines

LONDON (Bloomberg) — Low-fare airlines will carry almost one-third of passengers in Europe in the next few years, up from 5 percent now, bringing lower prices for travelers and challenges to traditional carriers, an industry consultant said Thursday.

"There will be more choices, cheaper choices and substantial declines in the quality of service," said Deborah Meehan, president of Smat, Hellesnes & Eichner Inc., an airline industry consulting company based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Quality will fall as airlines cut costs to keep prices low, she said.

Ms. Meehan estimated that low-fare carriers such as EasyJet Airline Co., Ryanair Holdings PLC and Debonair Airways Ltd. would soon be chosen by 25 percent to 30 percent of air travelers in Europe.

The Tower of Pisa is to have its tilt partly corrected for the millennium, specialists working on the monument said Thursday. They said that by next year the tilt of the tower, which has been closed to tourists since 1990, would be reduced by between 38 and 42 centimeters (15 to 17 inches).

WEATHER

Forecast for Saturday through Monday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Europe

City	Today	Low	High	Tomorrow	Low	High
Algeria	20/28	11/22	20/27	10/21	10/21	10/21
Amsterdam	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Ankara	21/27	7/14	22/27	7/14	7/14	7/14
Antwerp	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Athens	19/25	9/16	20/27	10/21	10/21	10/21
Bahia	20/28	11/22	20/27	10/21	10/21	10/21
Bangkok	29/35	24/30	30/36	25/31	25/31	25/31
Barcelona	19/25	9/16	20/27	10/21	10/21	10/21
Berlin	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Bombay	29/35	24/30	30/36	25/31	25/31	25/31
Buenos Aires	20/28	11/22	20/27	10/21	10/21	10/21
Calcutta	29/35	24/30	30/36	25/31	25/31	25/31
Cardiff	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Chennai	29/35	24/30	30/36	25/31	25/31	25/31
Chicago	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Columbo	29/35	24/30	30/36	25/31	25/31	25/31
Dhaka	29/35	24/30	30/36	25/31	25/31	25/31
Hong Kong	29/35	24/30	30/36	25/31	25/31	25/31
Kuala Lumpur	29/35	24/30	30/36	25/31	25/31	25/31
London	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Los Angeles	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Manila	29/35	24/30	30/36	25/31	25/31	25/31
Mumbai	29/35	24/30	30/36	25/31	25/31	25/31
Nairobi	29/35	24/30	30/36	25/31	25/31	25/31
Rangoon	29/35	24/30	30/36	25/31	25/31	25/31
San Francisco	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Singapore	29/35	24/30	30/36	25/31	25/31	25/31
Taipei	29/35	24/30	30/36	25/31	25/31	25/31
Tokyo	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Yokohama	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12

North America

City	Today	Low	High	Tomorrow	Low	High
Anchorage	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Atlanta	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Boston	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Chicago	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Dallas	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Denver	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Detroit	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Houston	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Los Angeles	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Memphis	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Minneapolis	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Miami	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Montreal	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
New York	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Phoenix	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Pittsburgh	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Portland	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
San Diego	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Seattle	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
St. Louis	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Tampa	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Washington	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12

Asia

City	Today	Low	High	Tomorrow	Low	High
Algeria	20/28	11/22	20/27	10/21	10/21	10/21
Amsterdam	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Ankara	21/27	7/14	22/27	7/14	7/14	7/14
Antwerp	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Athens	19/25	9/16	20/27	10/21	10/21	10/21
Bahia	20/28	11/22	20/27	10/21	10/21	10/21
Bangkok	29/35	24/30	30/36	25/31	25/31	25/31
Barcelona	19/25	9/16	20/27	10/21	10/21	10/21
Berlin	10/13	8/10	12/15	9/12	9/12	9/12
Bombay	29/35	24/30	30/36	25/31	25/31	25/31
Buenos Aires	20/28	11/22	20/27	10/21	10/21	10/21
Calcutta	29/35	24/30	30/36	25		

THE AMERICAS

Many Dreams, Too, Died In the Colorado Carnage

By Rene Sanchez and Amy Goldstein
Washington Post Service

The bullets hit a math whiz and a wrestler, debate team members and an aspiring gymnast, a beloved teacher and a gregarious student known in the halls as "the Little Guy."

The jocks and the brains, the goofy freshmen and the cocky seniors, the slackers and the stars — virtually everyone was in the line of fire when Columbine High School erupted into bloody chaos Tuesday.

Not all the names and conditions of the victims out down in the massacre are known. But as hundreds of their parents and classmates held an anguished daylong vigil around the sprawling campus Wednesday — waiting for the bodies to be removed — they drew a diverse portrait of the dead and wounded.

Most were leaders and strivers whose lives were just coming into bloom. Some were seniors counting out their final glory days before graduation and the start of new challenges in college. Others were faculty members reporting for what began as just another day of duty in jobs they loved.

"The thing about a school like this," said Jennifer Pierce, a Columbine student, "is that no matter where those guys fired, they would have hit someone who had high hopes for the future."

By the time the torrent of shooting had ended, Dave Sanders, a veteran business teacher and a coach of girls' sports teams at Columbine, lay dying in a classroom, with massive gunshot wounds.

Some students tried for hours to stanch the bleeding with the T-shirts that they had been wearing; others knelt down and showed him family photographs from his wallet.

Aune Marie Hochholter, 17, a member of the school's marching band and

symphony, had been shot in the chest. Danny Stepleton, 17, an honor student who ran on the cross-country team, had been shot in the leg.

Patrick Ireland — "that dude always totally aced his trigonometry tests," in the words of a classmate, Landon Jones — had been shot twice in the head.

Makai Hall, a junior who friends said loved the adventure of rock-climbing on weekends, had been hit by shrapnel from a pipe bomb.

And Isaiah Shoels, a buoyant 18-year-old senior hardly more than 5 feet tall (152 centimeters), had been shot to death.

"He was so full of life, and he got along with everyone," said Ashley Prunzi, a classmate. "He was so small, I don't even know how all the bullets got him."

"He'd always try to lift you up," said Stephanie Fredericksen, a freshman who rode the bus to Columbine with him. She recalled a time once after school when she and a friend were visibly upset about a guy. "And he came up and said, 'Oh, girls, cheer up. Things won't stay bad; things always get better.'"

Harold Berry, a longtime family friend who was at the home of the Shoels family Wednesday night, said Mr. Shoels had suffered from heart problems since birth, and was hospitalized for five days this month. Monday was his first day back at school.

The friend said that Mr. Shoels, one of a small number of African Americans at the school, "was being racially abused" by a few students who were part of the group known as the Trench Coat Mafia, which included the two assailants.

Mr. Berry said that Mr. Shoels's 15-year-old sister "went to a school official to say there was a problem" within the past month "with some of the students acting racially toward him. They didn't act on it. They just ignored her plea."

From morning to night Wednesday, students from Columbine and from



Bruce Crossar crying as he touched a card signed by mourners at a vigil in Denver's Civic Center Park in honor of victims of the school shooting.

throughout the Denver area streamed to the school's grounds to mourn the victims.

"We still don't know what happened to a lot of people," said Sarah DeBoer, 16, who narrowly escaped the gunfire as she fled the school. "I can't stand it."

Many students placed small bouquets at a makeshift memorial site beneath a tree. Some students said they had not slept since the shooting. Others wondered if they could ever return to class.

"Just to even think we'd have to walk through hallways where you know so many people were lying dead — it might be too much to take," said Lindsey Neam, 17, a junior. "The school will look the same, but now everything about it will always be different."

The news that the coach had been a victim seemed to hit students particularly hard. As one began to describe him to reporters, another student overheard and gasped, "Not Mr. Sanders, no!"

Some students said that when the shooting began, Mr. Sanders rushed around the school's cafeteria, ordering students to get beneath the tables.

POLITICAL NOTES

Clinton Questions Violence in Media

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia — President Bill Clinton urged students, parents and teachers across the country on Thursday to consider whether graphic violence on television and the Internet played a role in tragedies such as the killings at a school in Littleton, Colorado.

"We have to ask ourselves some pretty hard questions here," Mr. Clinton said in a nationally broadcast talk with students at T.C. Williams High School. "What is the role of the larger culture here?"

Mr. Clinton said he had been struck by reports that the two killers had felt ostracized by their peers and embraced racist views. The president urged students to look beyond their differences and emphasize what they had in common. (AP)

Quote/Unquote

Pat Buchanan, the Republican presidential candidate, arguing that stricter gun laws could not have prevented the Colorado school shootings: "The massacre is a tragic reflection of the dark side of American society. At Littleton, America got a glimpse of the last stop on that train to hell America boarded decades ago, when we declared that God is dead and that each of us is his or her own god who can make up the rules as we go along." (AP)

Killers Seemed to Plan To Blow Up the School

Propane Bombs Found Hidden in Kitchen

The Associated Press

LITTLETON, Colorado — The two students who massacred their classmates here before killing themselves intended to blow up the school, authorities said Thursday after discovering two large propane bombs hidden in the school's kitchen.

The discovery also could provide more evidence of a wider conspiracy, Sheriff John Stone said Thursday.

"These subjects were not only on a killing rampage, but they were going to destroy the school," the sheriff said after the bombs were discovered and removed from Columbine High School. "They were going to burn the school up."

The two gunmen, Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, armed with two sawed-off shotguns, a semiautomatic rifle, a handgun and homemade bombs stuffed with nails and shotgun shells, killed 12 students and one teacher Tuesday before killing themselves.

A total of 16 people remained hospitalized Thursday, 11 in critical or serious condition.

The authorities had already been looking into the possibility of additional suspects because of the amount of ammunition and explosives left behind.

Each of the bombs, placed inside propane tanks like the kind found on backyard barbecues, weighed at least 35 pounds, authorities said. "It's drawing suspicion out here that they would [not] have time to put as much ordinance in that school as they did without some help," Mr. Stone said.

School officials said Thursday that Columbine would be closed indefinitely as damage was assessed.

Students will finish out the school year at other schools.

The removal of the victims' bodies more than a day after the shootings allowed investigators to begin cataloging evidence and turn their attention to other issues.

"We're tracing the weapons and individual purchases to determine how these young adults obtained these illegal weapons," said Rich Marianos of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Authorities said the bombs were made from materials that could have been bought at most hardware stores.

Classmates said the two killers were part of an outcast group called the Trench Coat Mafia and that they wore black and spoke German to each other. They believe their choice of Hitler's birthday for the attack was no coincidence.

Some students, meanwhile, wondered whether they would be asked to return to the halls where their classmates killed and were killed. "I really don't think anybody wants to go back in there," said Susan Dewitt, 17. "Even if they remodel it, we'll all know where everything is."

4 Arrested in Colorado Springs

Four teenagers who wore black trench coats to a Colorado Springs high school were arrested, and an Ohio youth was taken into custody for threatening to kill his classmates in two incidents since the Littleton shootings, The Associated Press reported Thursday.

A day before the Littleton killings, Georgia officials arrested two teenagers for allegedly threatening to shoot their classmates. The two, who sometimes wore black trench coats like the ones in Colorado, had some sort of Internet link to the Colorado group, the police said.

Away From Politics

President Bill Clinton has nominated new chiefs for the U.S. Army and Marine Corps. If ratified by the Senate, General Eric Shinseki will become the army's chief of staff and Lieutenant General James Jones will become Marine commandant. (NYT)

Defying appeals from many nations, President Bill Clinton has decided to retain stocks of the smallpox virus, concluding that samples must be maintained to develop new drugs and vaccines to meet the threat of bioterrorism. The disease was eradicated worldwide in 1980. (AP)

Extra crews were sent home after officials said the Florida Everglades fire was nearly doused. (Reuters)

The Pentagon offered to guarantee at least two representatives at the funerals of all honorably discharged veterans to ensure proper services for military families. (WP)

A former teacher who has spent 20 years in psychiatric hospitals after the torture, killing and cannibalization of a teenager is no longer a threat to society and should go free, a jury said in Garden City, New York. (NYT)

SCHOOL: Where Alienated Youths Are Armed But Not Heard

Continued from Page 1

sealed weapons, which had seemed likely to pass, was pulled from the Colorado Legislature.

The initial sketch of the teenage shooters — described by friends as bright, scornful of authority, with eccentricities that should have set off alarms — also matched that of other children with guns and grudges.

"It is clear these youths were having significant problems," said Dr. Benoit Hamburg, a New York psychiatrist who is a co-author of "Violence in America's Schools." "In most of these cases, there are lots of symptoms. But teachers ignore them, because they are not trained to respond to them."

Finding common symptoms and patterns to school shootings may be the easy part. The more troubling question, perhaps, is why the normal problems of adolescence seem to be resolved now in extraordinary spasms of violence.

The shooters and some of the victims in Colorado were supposed to have met several months ago in a ramble pitting students known as the Trench Coat Mafia against the athletes they targeted: Goths vs. Jocks, as some students described it. The fistfight was to settle a feud and certainly would not have made news.

But that fight never took place. Instead,

a slaughter unfolded over four hours in Littleton, a suburb south of Denver.

In pure numbers, school violence is down. After more than a decade of sharp increases, homicides by juveniles dropped substantially in 1995, and continued to fall for the next two years.

School violence is way down from five years ago, and, until yesterday, this school year was shaping up as the safest in a decade, according to the National School Safety Center, a group based in Westlake Village, California, that monitors deadly violence in schools.

In the 1993-1994 academic year, for example, 52 children were killed in U.S. schools. Last year, the toll was 42. Before the killings Tuesday, with barely two months to go in this school year, the tally had been nine.

What remains high is the number of guns in schools. More than 6,000 students were expelled in the 1996-1997 school year, the last year for which full-year figures are available, for bringing guns to school, according to the Department of Education. The number is among the highest ever recorded.

To the police officers who saw the bodies at Columbine High School, the national trends provide few answers.

Asked about a motive for the shooting, Sheriff John Stone said, "A dysfunctional individual, several dysfunc-

tional individuals."

He paused, then said, "I don't see any motive."

Schools today are so focused on test scores and not on emotional train wrecks, some experts say, that they are missing the real problems.

"The problem is that we don't have any place in our society where we help kids systematically think through emotions," said Dr. John Coie, a professor of psychiatry at Duke University.

Dr. Coie said he feared a copycat pattern.

"That's what really scares me," he said. "Kids who are looking at these other examples must be talking to themselves about how they can create a bigger massacre."

Now, as graphic images of death at a house of learning are shown on television, many parents are trying to shield their children. But Ms. Wilson, whose daughter was killed last year, says it would be better for people to let the sorrowful pictures be seen.

"We teach our children, 'Thou shalt not kill,' and then we let them play hours and hours of the most violent video games," Ms. Wilson said. "I say let the children go to funerals."

"Let them see what happens after the shots are fired. Let's show them the empty bedroom."

HEROES: Amid the Mayhem, Bravery and Sacrifice Emerge

Continued from Page 1

weekend's prom. The first lunch shift was just starting. Then, striding across a soccer field, closing on the student parking lots, came boys with guns and bombs. As they came closer, they began firing. An explosion raked a car on the parking lot.

Everyone was baffled. Everyone was sure it was some kind of joke. Very quickly, as the blood began to run, everyone realized the truth.

Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, entered the school through the cafeteria, loaded up with an arsenal of almost unbelievable dimensions: two sawed-off shotguns, a rifle, a handgun, and homemade grenades.

On the second floor, they entered the library where Crystal Woodman, 16, among others, was cowering under a library desk. From her hiding place she could hear her classmates joyfully turning the library into a channel house.

"They'd shoot people and yell, they were excited," she said.

"They said, 'We've waited to do this our whole lives.' One saw a boy under a desk and cried, 'Peekaboo!' before opening fire."

Beside Crystal was Seth Honoy, who curled his body around hers and whispered that he would take the bullet.

When the two killers stopped to reload, Crystal and Seth ran for their lives.

The shooting lasted for about an hour. The gunmen stalked the halls. They exploded bombs that made the building tremble as if it would collapse. They laughed together. They set off flares, and when the fire alarm began ringing, one of them shot the alarm.

The police officers gathered outside the school could not be sure what they

were up against. At one point, they saw a sign in the shot-out window of the library: "Help, I'm bleeding to death," it said.

Then there was a boy at the window, so far identified only as "Rich," bloody, ashen and looking as if he might jump.

A police SWAT team moved an armored car beneath the window and two officers put down their guns, climbed up on the car and reached toward the window, risking a possible ambush.

The boy survived surgery at Swedish Hospital in Denver. In all, four SWAT teams were in the building by 1

P.M., going slowly, slowly, room by room. By now the shooting had stopped. But the police did not know exactly what that meant.

Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold apparently had shot themselves to death, adding their bodies to the heap of broken youth in the high school library.

On the red-stained floor of a science classroom, Aaron Hancey and his fellow students kept pressing their shirts into Dave Sanders's wounds. He spoke constantly to the teacher, leaning close: "You're doing all right. They're coming. Just hold on."

You can do it." "Tell my girls I love them," Mr. Sanders breathed.

Three hours passed this way. Then Aaron looked up to see a heavily armed officer slide through the doorway. "Be quiet. Put your hands on your heads and follow us out," he barked.

Aaron Hancey offered to stay with Dave Sanders. "We've got to get everyone out," the policeman insisted.

Sometime after the boy left — it is not known precisely when — Dave Sanders joined the dead.

Tomorrow

FOR INVESTMENT INFORMATION

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Every Saturday in the IHT.

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Page 10

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Page 7.

Page 5.

Pages 6-7.

Pages 18-19.

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EUROPE

'We've Reawakened Roman Archaeology' on Site of Future Park

By John Tagliabue
New York Times Service

ROME — A broad swath of central Rome is being dug up at a site that archaeologists describe as the largest excavation anywhere. City officials say it will one day become the world's biggest outdoor archaeological museum.

The excavation, which will cost about \$11 million, began last April and employs more than 100 workers, from archaeologists to laborers, in an area covering 13,500 square meters (150,000 square feet). So far they have brought to light pieces of evidence and artifacts that have added substantially to knowledge of an area that for centuries has been Rome's commercial and political heart.

The excavations are part of a broader project that will fundamentally change the shape of central Rome by revamping one of the foremost urban renewal projects of the century. From 1932 to 1934,

Mussolini ordered the first major excavations on the site when he constructed the broad Via dei Fori Imperiali, then presumptuously known as the Via dell'Impero. His idea was to connect the Colosseum with his offices at Piazza Venezia and lay bare the remains of ancient Rome, whose glory he sought unsuccessfully to re-create.

When the current work is completed, sometime after 2001, the excavated sites will form part of an enormous archaeological park with marked paths, benches and visitor information centers. The Via dei Fori Imperiali, which Mussolini intended for military parades, will be substantially narrowed and limited to buses and other forms of public transport.

"It's extraordinary, both from an archaeological and an urban planning point of view," said Andreas Steiner, editor of the Italian archaeological journal *Archeo*.

The idea for a vast open-air archae-

ological park on the site of these great Roman forums, which lie adjacent to the well-known Roman Forum, has been under discussion for decades. But urban planners objected to closing the Via dei Fori Imperiali to private transportation and argued for preserving the avenue as a rare example of monumental fascist-era urban design.

The mayor of Rome, Francesco Rutelli, who wants to restore the city's historic center to pedestrians, said the project would transform the area "from a scenic highway through the ruins to a kind of balcony on the most extensive archaeological area in the world."

It remains controversial. "People said it was useless to excavate the forums, that we know everything," said Eugenio La Rocca, an archaeologist who is the city's superintendent of antiquities and fine arts.

The digging is nevertheless progressing, focusing on three broad areas that

Mussolini's planners had leveled and planted with grass and trees: the Forum of Caesar, dedicated by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C., the Forum of Peace, built by the Emperor Vespasian from 71 to 73 after the destruction of Jerusalem, and Trajan's Forum, begun in 107 by the Emperor Trajan and completed by his successor, Hadrian.

The finds, though modest, are casting light not only on the area's early history but on its development in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance as well.

In Trajan's Forum, for instance, the digging has raised questions about earlier attempts to reconstruct the complex: It had been thought to consist of a large courtyard, with the monumental Column of Trajan rising between a basilica, or meeting hall, and a temple to the deified emperor. But Silvana Rizzo, the chief archaeologist, said that borings on the temple's presumed site yielded no evidence of a building.

"Was it the area around the column that was designated as a temple," she said, "or was it the entire sacred area, in the sense of an open-air temple?"

Among the Renaissance-era finds, archaeologists digging in Trajan's Forum recently unearthed the well-preserved workshop of a 16th-century Renaissance potter, complete with kiln, pottery wheel, and a storehouse of clay and tools. Comparisons of the pottery with archival records enabled scholars to identify the potter as Giovanni Boni da Brescia, whose work had been known to experts but whose workshop site had never been identified.

The discoveries have set off a debate about just what remains are worthy of preservation. In a process much like peeling the skin of an onion, Roman archaeology yields traces of successive ages from antiquity to the present. For Mussolini, whose interest was in finding evidence of the glory of imperial Rome,

the remains of later ages had little interest, and he ordered them destroyed.

Today, experts attach the same importance to the remains of the Middle Ages and Renaissance that they do to ancient ruins. So in Nerva's Forum, for instance, the remains of ninth-century Carolingian buildings have been left standing where they were built, even though their presence prevents further restoration of the imperial forum.

Next autumn the digging will be interrupted and temporary walkways constructed to allow pilgrims streaming to Rome to celebrate the third millennium of Christianity to pass the Colosseum and Trajan's Column on their way to St. Peter's and the Vatican.

In January 2001 the digging will begin again, and the park will be given what city officials hope to be its final look.

"We've reawakened Roman archaeology," Mr. La Rocca said, "which had been slumbering for quite a few years."

Embargo Near on Oil to Yugoslavia

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — After more than a month of air attacks in which oil refining and storage facilities have been key targets, the European Union was close Thursday to imposing a total oil embargo on Yugoslavia.

A spokesman for the European Commission said an embargo has been agreed on by ambassadors from all 15 EU countries, 11 of which are also members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The spokesman said the ban probably would go into effect next week following approval by foreign ministers.

Officials said the anomaly of bombing refineries and allowing oil to be imported was due to resistance by Greece and Italy to an embargo, which required unanimity.

NATO said it has targeted oil facilities, as well as bridges and supply routes, to deprive Yugoslav forces in Kosovo of essential supplies.

During the bombing, trade has con-

tinued through ports in a Yugoslav republic, Montenegro. This week, EU sources said, a Texaco tanker unloaded a cargo of crude oil from Britain. A spokesman for the European Commission was unable to supply figures for the amount of oil received by Yugoslavia since the start of the bombing campaign, nor for the amount of oil en route.

The embargo will cover a long list of petroleum and related products, ranging from Vaseline to crude oil and gas. It will apply to any company based in the EU, including the subsidiaries of American companies, involved in the shipping, financing and insuring of oil supplies.

The EU will seek to extend the measure to companies in the Eastern and Central European nations that are candidates for EU membership. Cyprus and the European Free Trade Area. But the ban apparently would not concern shipments coming from outside Europe, since a total embargo would be tantamount to a declaration of war, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization insists that it is not officially at war with Yugoslavia.

The EU was particularly anxious to close supply routes through Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary, all of which are candidates for membership of the Union. The Bulgarian prime minister, Ivan Kostov, said Wednesday that he had agreed to a NATO request and cut off an oil pipeline to Yugoslavia.

In Budapest, the Hungarian minister of the economy, Attila Chikán, said some oil was headed for Yugoslavia through his country on barges and trucks but in "insignificant amounts."

Greece, a traditional ally of Serbia, agreed to the embargo on the condition that oil could continue to flow for humanitarian purposes. A government spokesman said Greece and Italy had agreed on a strategy regarding an embargo, and that his country had lifted its reservations after Rome did the same.

The ban will apply to Montenegro as well as Serbia. The EU was planning to make special aid available to Montenegro, where the government has distanced itself from the warfare in Kosovo.

NATO: 50th Anniversary Party Recast as Major Wartime Meeting

Continued from Page 1

NATO leaders to start preparations for a credible ground campaign in Kosovo. Western leaders' failure to pose even a threat of a ground offensive when they launched air attacks last month has led critics to say that NATO was not credible militarily in Belgrade and must become so.

Planning for a ground war, critics say, would demonstrate the West's determination to prevail, and therefore increase the chances of winning with the air war alone. But even preparing to send in the troops carries the cost of admitting that allied leaders hoped to get victory in Kosovo on the political cheap.

It also broadcasts an ominous signal of escalation, including an economic embargo against Serbia to halt oil supplies. The call for a fight to the finish will require the alliance to be able to reassure NATO allies, such as Italy, Greece and Hungary, that are liable to feel the blowback, and also to help stabilize nonallies, such as Albania, Macedonia, Bulgaria and perhaps even Montenegro, with evidence of the alliance's ability to see them through a showdown.

These imperatives overshadow the summit meeting's original program of debates about future directions for NATO. Diplomats have labored for months on a series of issues for the meeting, including several thorny questions: Should NATO promise "no first use" of nuclear weapons as sought by the Greens in Germany's new coalition government? What answer should be given to a dozen Central European nations asking to follow the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland into the alliance?

How far should NATO "globalize" its ambitions as a force ready to act outside Europe? Does NATO have to always wait for an authorization from the United Nations Security Council? Should NATO—in this case, the United States—welcome an Anglo-French initiative to give Europe an autonomous capacity in defense?

That list will be largely dealt with in what the alliance calls a new strategic concept to emerge from the meeting, and which is being finalized in the last few hours, apparently successfully. As a French participant put it, "No one is going to jeopardize the war effort by pushing the allies to a public split on some doctrinal point."

On a few questions about the alliance's future, the war has raised the stakes, notably concerning the issue of a European defense role inside NATO and the related matter of how far the allies in Europe can go in modernizing their armed forces and equipping them to fight future conflicts resembling the one in Kosovo.

The decisive fashion in which the

European allies entered the air war reflected a new determination among leaders on the Continent after decades in which they had often seemed leery of military action and too concerned about domestic problems to risk combat.

That boded well, U.S. officials said, for a green light at the summit meeting on further discussions about a deal in which Washington would promise, under certain conditions, to lend the European allies the equipment they needed, including satellite intelligence and big cargo planes, for missions where the United States did not want to be involved with ground troops.

After a month in Kosovo, the outlook is no longer that clear. "The conflict has probably been a wash as far as its impact on the European defense role is concerned," Hubert Vedrine, the French foreign minister, said in an interview this week. "It's probably a plus for Europeans' confidence in their ability to work together, but we still have a great deal more work to do in developing a defense identity of our own."

The "defense identity" as redefined last year by Paris and London, means, Mr. Vedrine said, that "Europeans want to be able to work inside NATO when it's appropriate, as it is right now in Kosovo, and we also want to be able to work among Europeans, on the basis of confidence with the alliance, when it's appropriate."

That call for a larger European role in NATO, including some autonomy in defense for allies that are also members of the European Union, has received a cautious welcome from the Clinton administration, which says that it has shed previous U.S. governments' habit of giving lip service to European aspirations while maintaining U.S. insistence on running the show at NATO.

But Mr. Vedrine's cautious tone seemed to reflect an emerging theme in Washington: that Kosovo has revealed major shortcomings in the European allies' readiness to be a full-scale military partner with the United States.

In Kosovo, where 13 of the allies are flying combat missions with the U.S. Air Force, "it turns out that all F-16s are not equal," a National Security Council official said recently at a closed-door conference in Europe. Indeed, only U.S. warplanes—and only some of them—have sufficiently advanced electronics to be able to operate even in bad weather.

When all-weather capabilities are added to size, only the United States has been able to meet NATO commanders' needs when they call for reinforcements to escalate the air war. By the end of the month, the U.S. share of the air armada will rise to about 70 percent, after starting out below half.

Already, nearly 90 percent of the ord-

nance hitting Serbian targets comes from the United States, since none of the allies have long-range cruise missiles—except Britain, which has bought a few. None of them has bombs directed by the Global Positioning System, and none of them has attack helicopters such as the tank-busting Apaches that have finally arrived in the Balkans.

All of this has injected urgency into the NATO plan for an initiative on defense capabilities, meaning a drive by the European allies to invest more in the emerging electronic technologies for use on the battlefield.

The American worry, experts said, is that the technology gap across the Atlantic is widening to the point where the allies will find it difficult to participate usefully in joint operations.

Many Europeans agree with the diagnosis. The European Union countries have a defense budget that is 60 percent of the U.S. figure of around \$265 billion a year, a level about right since Europe has no defense responsibilities in Asia or elsewhere.

Only Britain, with its professional army designed for mobility, offers a model of modernization in Europe, and only France, with its spy satellites, has started developing the expensive new technologies. None of the European allies is close to the U.S. level in terms of fusing intelligence with battle management.

Washington, especially the Pentagon, seems increasingly intent on making an issue of European capabilities before letting NATO accept a greater role for Europe.

The other question that Kosovo has moved from NATO's future to its present is the alliance's relationship to the Security Council and specifically the mandate question. It had been billed as a contentious problem at the summit meeting, with France resisting any U.S. effort to assert that NATO was entitled to circumvent the Security Council whenever Russia blocked a Western initiative.

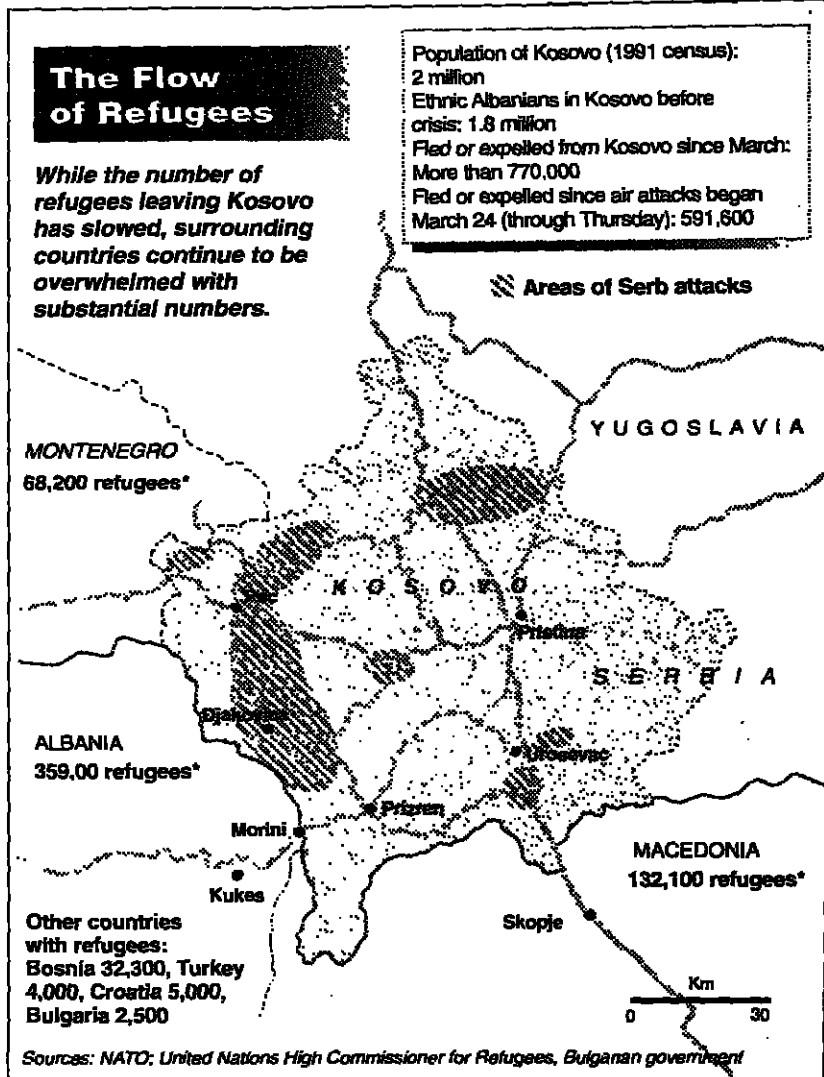
Mr. Vedrine said Paris wanted to see that NATO actions remained rooted in the alliance's basic charter, which enshrines Security Council authority. France, he said, approved the NATO decision in October to intervene against Serbia, a sovereign state, because overlapping Security Council resolutions provided the necessary legitimacy.

But, he added, "I think we'll find a basis for agreement in Washington." The phrase seemed to reflect a formula in which the Clinton administration and Paris agreed to say as little as possible to leave open the door for NATO to act pragmatically over future Kosovos.

With NATO engaged in Europe's largest war in half a century, the mandate issue, like the long-running debate over whether NATO would operate out of its old area, comprising the territory of its member states, has probably become a matter to be determined by the outcome in Kosovo. Certainly, any outcome less than a clear-cut victory will make it a virtual certainty that the alliance could never again get unanimity on dispensing with the legitimacy conferred by a Security Council resolution.

Similarly, the conflict has created a new context for the summit meeting's expected stance of saying "yes, the door is open" to prospective new members while refusing to name any names or give any dates.

Not only closer military cooperation but also economic assistance, potentially on a massive scale, will be under discussion in Washington, where the 19 NATO leaders will have a separate meeting Sunday with the heads of frontline states in the Balkans, a sign of their sudden new importance.



TROOPS: What If Air Strikes Don't Work?

Continued from Page 1

sending ground troops into Kosovo.

"The U.S. would certainly support as a prudent measure any updating of the assessments of the use of ground troops in a permissive and nonpermissive environment," a White House official said.

Informal planning, however, is at best a small step and one that is unlikely to seriously worry President Milosevic.

To make the vague talk of combat troops credible, the alliance needs to start actual military preparations, such as deciding which NATO members would contribute troops, mobilizing and training reserves, persuading nations in the region to make their ports and airfields available and shipping troops and weapons to the Balkans.

It might seem strange that it would take allied nations so long to prepare for conflict in the heart of Europe. But NATO has its own diplomatic rituals.

When the United States prepared for the 1991 Gulf War, it began to send huge numbers of troops and weapons to the region even before its generals had worked out a military plan to evict Iraqi soldiers from Kuwait.

NATO does not generally work that way. In principle, there is no reason allied nations could not start preparing troops now for a possible mission in Kosovo.

In fact, many military preparations are unlikely to be made before allied nations formally instruct the NATO commander, General Wesley Clark, to prepare a plan for a ground combat operation, debate the strategy and then approve it—a process that has not yet begun.

The blessing of the entire 19-member alliance would be needed both to approve the plan and to carry it out. Up to now, NATO has agreed to send a peace-keeping force of 28,000 troops, a step that can only be taken after an autonomy agreement for Kosovo is worked out and Mr. Milosevic agrees to it.

Even if the political decision to send combat troops into Kosovo is made, the process of getting forces to the Balkans could take six to eight weeks, officials said.

The logistics would not be easy. Albania is willing to be the staging ground for an attack. But its port, airfields and roads are poor and its terrain mountainous.

Macedonia would be more suitable. But that would mean lining up political support from its government and from Greece, whose port at Salonika would be key. Neither is yet willing to support a land attack.

General Clark has told allied leaders that there is no guarantee that the bombing will succeed in breaking the will of the Milosevic regime, diplomats said.

Another army man was also careful to emphasize the limits of air power in forcing foreign dictators to bend to the will of the United States.

Just before the Gulf War, General Colin Powell told Congress that he was not about to rely exclusively on air power to evict Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

"One can hunker down, one can dig in, one can disperse to try to ride out such a single-dimension attack," General Powell said. "Such strategies are designed to hope to win. They are not designed to win."

KOSOVO: Milosevic's Villa Hit

Continued from Page 1

with Mr. Clinton, Mr. Solana said of the campaign to force Mr. Milosevic to back down: "There is no doubt, NATO will see this through to the end. We have the means, we have the will."

NATO air power continued to pound away at targets in Yugoslavia, showing an increasing willingness to strike in daylight. Dozens of missiles exploded in the Pristina area, in what the Yugoslav press agency Tanjug said was the fiercest daytime attack there. Missiles also targeted Novi Sad, the second-largest Yugoslav city, in a rare daytime attack.

Refugees continued to stream out of Kosovo, and relief agencies struggled to transport food, water and blankets to thousands stranded near the border.

Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain told President Bill Clinton at a meeting Wednesday that he supported a review of plans for a ground assault. But Britain still believes, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said Thursday in an appearance with Mrs. Albright, "that we are not going to commit ground forces in a hostile environment."

The missiles that hit Mr. Milosevic's state residence smashed through the two-story building, leaving it a smoking, burned-out shell, according to video released by Serbian television.

A day earlier, missiles hit the Belgrade high-rise building that housed a radio and TV station owned by Mr. Milosevic's daughter Marija, as well as offices of the governing party.

A Yugoslav government spokesman, Goran Matić, called the attack on the Milosevic residence "a criminal act without precedent—an assassination attempt against the president of a sovereign state."

In Jerusalem, the visiting Russian foreign minister, Igor Ivanov, condemned the bombing of Mr. Milosevic's home and other civilian sites, Reuters reported.

But Mr. Bacon said in Washington, without apology: "We made it very clear from the beginning that the attack was going to get stronger and stronger."

"We are targeting the head of this military regime on the one hand," he added. "We're trying to cut that off and break the central nervous system," he added, alluding to command and control over the military and police.

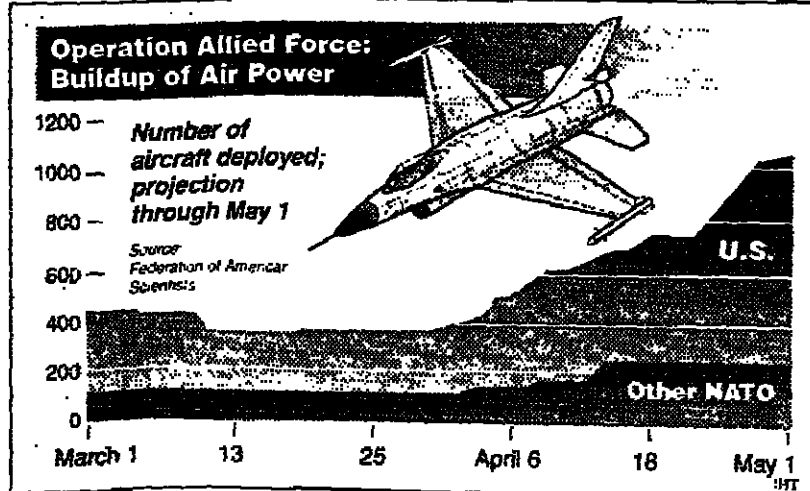
Mr. Milosevic, appearing unaffected by the attack, was seen on Serbian television welcoming Mr. Chernomyrdin, the former Russian prime minister. The two met at length in the presidential White Palace, as air-raid sirens sounded outside.

The alliance expects the air assault to succeed in pushing Serbian forces out of Kosovo and in clearing the way for refugees to return under international protection. But it wants to prepare for a ground assault if one is needed.

Mr. Solana's comment came just as leaders of the 19 alliance members and their 25 partner-countries were assembling in Washington. Paris and London are pressing Washington to think seriously about sending troops to Kosovo, even without a peace agreement.

But they and Italy said Thursday that it was too soon to discuss troops at the NATO summit meeting, intended as a celebration of the alliance's 50 years.

Meanwhile, Romania's Parliament voted overwhelmingly to grant a NATO request for unrestricted use of its airspace. The Bulgarian Parliament is expected to do the same in coming days.



Dutch Crash Inquiry Accuses Government

THE HAGUE — A parliamentary inquiry into the Dutch government's handling of the country's worst air disaster accused it Thursday of misleading lawmakers and failing victims by reacting sluggishly to their health problems.

In a 400-page report, the commission that investigated the 1992 crash of an El Al Boeing 747 cargo jet that killed at least 43 people said Parliament too often had been given "unclear, incomplete, tardy or inaccurate information" by cabinet ministers.

The inquiry charged that government officials had "failed to pass on crucial information to those with administrative responsibility." Parliament will debate the report's findings next month.

The commission, however, brushed aside claims of a cover-up by saying it had found no evidence of fraud aimed at concealing the flight's cargo, which included a chemical that could be used

Statue Is Destroyed On Lenin's Birthday

MOSCOW — Communists marked the 129th anniversary of Vladimir Lenin's birth Thursday by laying wreaths outside the mausoleum where his body is on display.

A few of Lenin's critics, meanwhile, marked the birthday by blowing up a statue of the Soviet Union's founder in the city of Berezovskiy in the western Siberian Sverdlovsk region, Russia's Interfax news agency reported. (AP)

Scottish Poll Finds Labour Far Ahead

LONDON — An opinion poll suggests independence-minded nationalists have no chance of gaining power in next month's historic elections for a new Parliament in Scotland, the Glasgow-based Herald reported Thursday.

The System Three poll showed that Britain's governing Labour Party was 20 percentage points ahead of the Scottish National Party.

For the Record

Russian-made S-300 anti-aircraft missiles bought by Cyprus have been sent to the Greek island of Crete, where they are to be based under an agreement between Nicosia and Athens, Greek officials said Thursday. (AFP)

سكوتلندا

ASIA/PACIFIC

Pall of Fear Hangs Over East Timor

Despite Peace Agreement, Survivors of Attack Still Live in Terror

By Mark Dodd
New York Times Service

DILI, East Timor — A peace agreement signed between East Timor's warring factions has provided a welcome respite to escalating violence in the troubled territory, but survivors of the rampage last weekend by pro-Indonesian paramilitaries continue to live in terror and fear for their lives.

At the Catholic-run Motael clinic in Dili, two young men who survived an attack on the home of the separatist leader Manuel Carrascalao in which 12 people were killed, claim uniformed and plain clothes military personnel were involved in the assault.

Swathed in bandages and lying on a cot, 19-year-old Victor, suffering a gunshot wound to his left leg, machete cuts to his right arm and a knife wound close to his right ear told how his friend, Manuelito Carrascalao, the adopted son of the independence activist, was murdered. Both men expressed grave fears for their safety and the safety of their families despite the peace deal signed Wednesday.

On Saturday afternoon, more than 100 militiamen stormed the Carrascalao compound supported by the armed forces, the ABRI, Victor said.

He said the militia first demanded to know where any guns were hidden before they started their looting and killing spree against about 150 refugees.

Victor said: "Suddenly the pro-integration people with their traditional weapons came into the house. They were destroying everything, destroying everything. Then they began killing the people — many victims from Maubara."

"I was there when Manuelito died," Victor said. The militiamen took Manuelito outside. "Some of them used traditional guns to kill him. First they shot him so he could not escape then the pro-integration militia used traditional guns to kill him."

He denied claims by pro-integration spokesman, Basilio Araújo, that supporters of an autonomy deal with Indonesia were being held hostage in the house.

"It's not true — that's a stupid claim," he said. He charged that Indonesian soldiers were present when Manuelito was murdered and said they were dressed in black Ninja uniforms with their faces covered.

"Because they were hiding their faces, we know they were Indonesian soldiers," he said. Senior Indonesian police officers said 12 bodies were later recovered from the house.

Victor's account was backed by another victim, Alfredo, also 19. Alfredo was shot in the back and is suffering a severe chest wound, according to doctors at the clinic. Speaking with difficulty, he said Thursday that he was in the Carrascalao house when 11 people were killed there.

As many as 30 people were killed in and around Dili on Saturday.

Dozens more were wounded, while

several hundred local people have fled into mountains or remain missing.

Almost all of the political leadership of the pro-independence movement or their supporters have gone into hiding or fled Dili for fear of further revenge attacks by pro-Indonesian paramilitaries.

Human rights organizations and two newspaper offices were also targeted by the pro-Indonesian militiamen.

Violence in the former Portuguese colony annexed by Indonesia in 1976 after an invasion the previous year has escalated drastically in recent months ahead of a scheduled United Nations-supervised ballot in July for self-determination.

Analysis says the majority of East Timor's 800,000 people will opt for independence and reject an autonomy deal from Jakarta. However, pro-integration militias backed by the ABRI have recently begun a series of violent attacks against suspected separatist strongholds in order to delay or cancel the ballot.

On Wednesday, leaders of the pro- and anti-independence factions signed a peace accord in Dili officiated by the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Bishop Carlos Belo, and the Indonesian armed forces chief, General Wiranto, but an absence of any commitment for either party to disarm has dimmed hopes of a meaningful or lasting peace.

Victor said he saw uniformed soldiers among the attackers. Asked whether they were police or army he answered with one word: "Army."

Then, when she was in the fifth grade, she moved to Tokyo from the remote village where she had been sheltered during the war and its aftermath, and the other children teased her by making faces as if they were being strangled. She did not understand, and her mother would not explain.

She heard the mysterious word *kashukei* whispered about her grandfather, and so finally she looked up the word in a picture dictionary. It meant "to be hanged to death," and the dictionary included a picture of a man in a black hood being hanged from a gallows. Suddenly everything became clear.

Now, 50 years after a U.S.-backed tribunal hanged her grandfather, General Hideki Tojo, as a war criminal — he was Japan's wartime prime minister and the man who ordered the attack on Pearl Harbor — Mrs. Tojo is leading a campaign to revise his image. In just a few years, she has been remarkably successful in winning a measure of public support in Japan for her portrayal of General Tojo as a national hero.

"He died for his country," she said firmly in an interview in the building where she keeps an office to fight for his memory. "He died to save his people."

Mrs. Tojo, 59, spoke on the sofas in the lobby of the building, steadfastly refusing repeated suggestions that her office might be more interesting for an interview, and she was accompanied by a body man, her aide, who towered over her but ran about on her instructions to fetch tea and newspaper clippings.

Mrs. Tojo's campaign is part of a larger struggle by Japanese conservatives to change the way Japan perceives its past, so that children can feel pride rather than shame for what their grandparents and great-grandparents did in the war.

The issues are extremely sensitive both within Japan and among neighboring countries — where millions died during the Japanese invasions and brutal occupations — but there is little doubt that it is becoming more acceptable than ever before to say openly in Japan that General Tojo was a great man or that Japan had no choice but to attack Pearl Harbor.

"This isn't a private matter about my grandpa," Mrs. Tojo said, somehow managing to speak both primly and passionately. "To improve the image of Tojo is to improve the image of war-time Japan, and that's my aim."

Mrs. Tojo first stepped into the limelight a few years ago, writing a book about her grandfather that became a best seller, with 100,000 copies sold. Then there was a movie, "Pride," which portrayed General Tojo as a gentle hero and was the highest-grossing Japanese movie in the first half of last year.

Another sign of the growing assertiveness of the revisionist movement was the huge success of an adult comic book, "Sensoron," which came out last year and has sold 550,000 copies so far. It portrays General Tojo as trying "to protect the honor of Japan" and argues that the root cause of World War II was that white people were colonizing Asia and that the United States was provoking Japan.

"Some Asian country had to stand up against Western white imperialism," the book declares. "And Japan did."

Just this month, Tokyo voters elected as their new governor Shintaro Ishihara, an outspoken nationalist who has denounced as "a lie" the Rape of Nanking — an assault on the Chinese city by Japanese troops in 1937 in which, most historians believe, tens of thousands died.

"With the United States occupation after the war, there was mind control over the Japanese people about their history, and only now is the mind control being lifted," Mrs. Tojo said.

"Now is the first time that many people are learning the real history of Japan."

Leaning forward in her chair, putting down her cane, Mrs. Tojo suddenly grew even more intense.

"People always talk about Hitler and Tojo in the same breath," she said fervently. "But they were utterly different. Hitler murdered the Jews, but Tojo didn't kill his own people."

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Impasse Lifts Likelihood of India's Calling Another Vote

NEW DELHI — The prospect of new elections moved closer Thursday as the Congress (I) Party appeared determined to form a minority government on its own.

Sonia Gandhi, the party's leader, refused to accept counterproposals from a group of regional, leftist and caste-based parties on forming a new government, which would be the sixth in India since 1996. The group has demanded a role in a Congress Party-led coalition or the chance to form a government with Congress backing and Jyoti Basu of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) as prime minister.

Deputies from Congress and the regional, leftist and caste-based parties joined Saturday to defeat the coalition led by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in a confidence vote. Their differences erupted later when the Congress Party, which has ruled India for 45 of the 52 years since independence but never governed in a coalition, said it wanted to keep the others out of its government.

If Mrs. Gandhi and the group cannot agree on a sharing of power, India could be set for its second midterm poll in 14 months and its third in three years.

The Congress Party has just 145 seats in the 543-member lower house and needs 272 for a majority. Mrs. Gandhi told President K.R. Narayanan on Wednesday that she had that number of supporters and would provide proof of her ability to form a government within two days.

Mr. Narayanan must decide whether to invite any of the political formations to take a shot at forming a government or order the country's third elections in as many years.

Arjun Singh, a Congress Party spokesman, said, "There will be no election; we are quite confident that we will show our majority."

Jayaram Jayalalitha and her All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Party from Tamil Nadu pledged its support Thursday to a Congress Party-led government. The powerful regional party brought on the downfall of the latest government by pulling out of Mr. Vajpayee's 13-month-old coalition.

Mr. Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party, meanwhile, is seeking an unprecedented second invitation to rule in the same Parliament and claims the support of 270 deputies.

Lawmakers briefly set aside their wrangling Thursday to pass the country's annual budget in a matter of minutes. But political concerns continued to depress markets, with the Bombay Stock Exchange's benchmark index ending 1.61 percent lower.

The nagging concern in New Delhi is that even a fresh poll is unlikely to yield a clear mandate for any one party.

"It is still not clear," a U.S. diplomat said, "that an election would give a clearer picture."

Upper-Caste Militia Kills 12

Gunmen believed to be members of an outlawed upper-caste militia killed 12 low-caste villagers in the eastern state of Bihar, the police said Thursday.

The attack took place Wednesday at neighboring hamlets in the Gaya district, 80 kilometers (50 miles) southeast of Patna, the state capital. Witnesses said about 100 armed men of the group Ranvir Sena surrounded the low-caste hamlets of Zahribigha and Khagribigha and started firing indiscriminately. Nine people were killed in Zahribigha and three in Khagribigha in the latest violence linked to caste animosities.

"This is the handiwork of Ranvir Sena," said Neelmani, inspector-general of the state police. The inspector-general said the attack was the militia's first in the Gaya area.

BRIEFLY



An activist carrying a picture of Wang Dan, the student leader who went into exile a year ago, during a protest Thursday in Hong Kong.

China Denies Theft Of U.S. Technology

BEIJING — China denied Thursday that its spies had poached cutting-edge U.S. nuclear technology that American intelligence officials say will help Beijing upgrade its strategic arsenal.

"The Chinese government has never engaged in theft of U.S. military or nuclear technology," said the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Sun Yuxi.

Reacting to a new U.S. intelligence report on the alleged theft, Mr. Sun also said he regretted criticism from what he called "responsible departments."

Regarding what he called the "rumor" that China had stolen U.S. military and nuclear technology, "we have already refuted these allegations as groundless and irresponsible," Mr. Sun said.

"Irresponsible reports by responsible departments are even more regretful," the official added. (Reuters)

Hong Kong Assailed Over Bar on Exiles

HONG KONG — Pro-democracy activists accused the government Thursday of bowing to pressure from Beijing in barring 11 prominent Chinese dissidents from Hong Kong.

A small band of activists waved banners and shouted in front of government headquarters against the decision to deny entry visas to the dissidents. The exiles, including Wang Dan and Wei Jingsheng, were seeking to attend a seminar on Chinese democracy May 1 in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the crackdown on student-led protests in Tiananmen Square.

The Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Democratic Movements in China said the rejection cast doubts on the "one country, two systems" principle by which China had pledged to

China Denies Theft Of U.S. Technology

govern Hong Kong. But a lawmaker said there were reasons for the government action. "I am afraid that the political reality is that we have to give preference to stability, and obviously that is what the Hong Kong government is thinking of," said Tsang Yok-sing, a legislator from a pro-China party. (Reuters)

10,000 Unionists Protest in Seoul

SEOUL — More than 10,000 union workers rallied Thursday to demand a halt in layoffs despite government threats that force would be used to break up illegal strikes spreading across the country.

Labor Minister Lee Ki Ho said the government would not rule out the possibility of sending in riot police to end the strikes forcibly and arrest 66 union leaders.

About 6,000 union workers have occupied Myeongdong Cathedral and Seoul National University and have pitched tents and set up barricades to try to prolong their sit-in strike.

Thousands of Seoul subway union workers, protesting government plans to lay off more than 2,000 of the work force of 11,492, refused to return to work despite threats they would be fired, partly paralyzing one of South Korea's primary transportation systems.

Bhutan Joins TV Age

NEW DELHI — Bhutan is ending its ban on television and starting its own network, finally lowering its guard against outside influence in the remote Buddhist kingdom.

Broadcasting will begin June 2, but initially only in the capital, Thimphu, a city of 40,000 residents, according to the weekly Kuensel, Bhutan's only newspaper. That date marks the 25th anniversary of the coronation of King Jigme Singye Wangchuk. (AP)



Abdul Rahim Noor leaving court in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday.

Former Police Chief Indicted In Beating of Anwar in Jail

KUALA LUMPUR — The former Malaysian police chief was indicted Thursday in the beating of former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who was being held in custody blindfolded and handcuffed.

Abdul Rahim Noor, who resigned in January and admitted in February to having hit Mr. Anwar, was charged with trying to cause grievous harm to the political leader. Mr. Rahim is the first former police chief in Malaysia to face criminal action.

The beating of Mr. Anwar last September, who was sentenced last week to six years jail for corruption, set off international outrage.

Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad said Thursday that, despite the indictment of Mr. Rahim, he and Malaysia would still be criticized.

Mr. Rahim entered a plea of not guilty in the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court. The charge carries a maximum punishment of three years in jail and a fine set by the court.

His attorney, K. Kumarendran, said a medical report on Mr. Anwar's injuries showed "simple harm" and therefore the former police chief should be indicted under a lesser charge that carries a maximum penalty of one year in jail and a 2,000 ringgit (\$525) fine.

He said grievous harm would have blinded or maimed Mr. Anwar.

The judge allowed Mr. Rahim to remain free without bail pending trial. The court was to meet on May 21 to consider trial dates.

A Campaign to Restore Tojo's Image

Japan's Wartime Leader Was a Hero, Granddaughter Asserts

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

TOKYO — Yuko Tojo stiffens in her chair as she recalls how her beloved grandpa vanished at the end of World War II and her mother eventually told her that he had been killed on the battlefield.

Then, when she was in the fifth grade, she moved to Tokyo from the remote village where she had been sheltered during the war and its aftermath, and the other children teased her by making faces as if they were being strangled. She did not understand, and her mother would not explain.

She heard the mysterious word *kashukei* whispered about her grandfather, and so finally she looked up the word in a picture dictionary. It meant "to be hanged to death," and the dictionary included a picture of a man in a black hood being hanged from a gallows. Suddenly everything became clear.

Now, 50 years after a U.S.-backed tribunal hanged her grandfather, General Hideki Tojo, as a war criminal — he was Japan's wartime prime minister and the man who ordered the attack on Pearl Harbor — Mrs. Tojo is leading a campaign to revise his image. In just a few years, she has been remarkably successful in winning a measure of public support in Japan for her portrayal of General Tojo as a national hero.

"He died for his country," she said firmly in an interview in the building where she keeps an office to fight for his memory. "He died to save his people."

Mrs. Tojo, 59, spoke on the sofas in the lobby of the building, steadfastly refusing repeated suggestions that her office might be more interesting for an interview, and she was accompanied by a body man, her aide, who towered over her but ran about on her instructions to fetch tea and newspaper clippings.

Mrs. Tojo's campaign is part of a larger struggle by Japanese conservatives to change the way Japan perceives its past, so that children can feel pride rather than shame for what their grandparents and great-grandparents did in the war.

The issues are extremely sensitive both within Japan and among neighboring countries — where millions died during the Japanese invasions and brutal occupations — but there is little doubt that it is becoming more acceptable than ever before to say openly in Japan that General Tojo was a great man or that Japan had no choice but to attack Pearl Harbor.

"This isn't a private matter about my grandpa," Mrs. Tojo said, somehow managing to speak both primly and passionately. "To improve the image of Tojo is to improve the image of war-time Japan, and that's my aim."

Mrs. Tojo first stepped into the limelight a few years ago, writing a book about her grandfather that became a best seller, with 100,000 copies sold. Then there was a movie, "Pride," which portrayed General Tojo as a gentle hero and was the highest-grossing Japanese movie in the first half of last year.

Another sign of the growing assertiveness of the revisionist movement was the huge success of an adult comic book, "Sensoron," which came out last year and has sold 550,000 copies so far. It portrays General Tojo as trying "to protect the honor of Japan" and argues that the root cause of World War II was that white people were colonizing Asia and that the United States was provoking Japan.

"Some Asian country had to stand up against Western white imperialism," the book declares. "And Japan did."

Just this month, Tokyo voters elected as their new governor Shintaro Ishihara, an outspoken nationalist who has denounced as "a lie" the Rape of Nanking — an assault on the Chinese city by Japanese troops in 1937 in which, most historians believe, tens of thousands died.

"With the United States occupation after the war, there was mind control over the Japanese people about their history, and only now is the mind control being lifted," Mrs. Tojo said.

"Now is the first time that many people are learning the real history of Japan."

Leaning forward in her chair, putting down her cane, Mrs. Tojo suddenly grew even more intense.

"People always talk about Hitler and Tojo in the same breath," she said fervently. "But they were utterly different. Hitler murdered the Jews, but Tojo didn't kill his own people."

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

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The School Slayings

How Many More?

The unspeakable horror that rocked Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, on Tuesday has shaken Americans everywhere. It is not because this bloody afternoon of terror in a school is a new story but because it is all too painfully familiar. The carnage in this instance was exceptional, but gunfire has taken young lives and scarred still others in schools across the United States. Again, as hearts open to a shattered community, the groping for explanations resumes apace — at this point with more generalizations than hard findings.

Certainly every society has among its youth disaffected outcasts, rebels and children prone to violence. The early warning systems are not that sophisticated either. Parents can and should be on the lookout for erratic behavior and for ways to address it effectively. Teachers, too, often can detect troubled kids before they explode. Crisis intervention and conflict resolution programs do seem to have made inroads in certain school systems. Less is known about the effects of violence in the culture — the

no-grisly-holds-barred blood and guts in some of the movies and the music of the young.

Beyond all this, however, is one devastating fact of American life that has empowered young people in a terrifying dimension: the outlandishly easy access to lethal firepower. How else could two high school students terrorize their world, kill and maim many classmates and then do themselves in so efficiently? Outcasts seeking attention get it when they are armed and trigger-happy. Kids who "feel a need to strike out at society" can do it dramatically with real bombs and bullets.

The gross national arsenal of America is notorious worldwide. It emboldens the young in rural as well as urban settings and from all social groups. Law enforcement authorities — those on the front lines — continue to urge more attention to public safety, as do voters in more and more states. How many more tragedies like this one in Colorado must it take for the country to stop feeding firepower so freely to its youth?

—THE WASHINGTON POST

Seeking Motives

On the screen, the images are too familiar — emergency personnel bent double in concentration, anguished parents, weeping, puzzled and wounded students, the ordinary buildings of a school that is no longer ordinary. With the first reports of a shooting like the one that occurred in Littleton, Colorado, on Tuesday morning, a mental accounting begins, an effort to tally the reasons, or the absence of reason, that lie behind such a pitiless event. Reporters ask questions about motive, scarcely differing from students and parents in this respect, and those questions contain the unstated hope that a predominant motive will emerge, a cause that somehow encapsulates the tragedy and allows it to be set apart from everyday life.

One young mother, whose son stood unharmed beside her, talked on television Wednesday morning about having moved to Littleton in the hope that she and her family would find safety there. What her words imply is the common faith that a kind of town exists where violence is unheard of, a place so nice, so ordinary, that children are inherently safe. But the American faith in exceptionalism — that it cannot happen here, not in this kind of town, not in this country — is a misplaced faith.

Once, it was urban schools that seemed uniquely dangerous, for reasons that appeared untransportable to middle-class Rocky Mountain suburbs such as Littleton.

But whatever was local in the motives of the suspects, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, is offset by an array of contributory causes that are not local, that are universal in modern America.

One of the boys maintained a personal Web site, since removed by America Online, espousing an addled philosophy of violence and containing

instructions for building pipe bombs. Both boys appear to have been fond of Marilyn Manson. And both found guns all too easy to come by. The cultural fragments out of which they invented themselves, and their deaths, are now ubiquitous in every community, urban, suburban and rural. What matters is not the fragments but how they were combined.

Most of us remember all too vividly the way high school felt. It is a rare teenager who has never experienced a sense of alienation or dislocation at school. But the cultural map of high school has changed. The domain of fantasy has been enormously enlarged because the tools to gratify a life of fantasy — the Internet and computer games, in particular — have been spectacularly enhanced.

Whether or not hate-sites and visually violent games actually induce violence, they do offer a place to hide that often makes it harder to tell just where an imperiled student, like Eric Harris or Dylan Klebold, actually keeps his head. It is always hard for people with a clear grasp of reality to see the ways that reality bends in minds as evidently muddled and self-isolating as theirs were.

It will be tempting to explain this tragedy through one of a number of lenses, to argue that the problem here is guns or Hollywood or the Internet or music. It will be tempting to think that the proscription or control of one or another of these elements will make the difference in preventing another tragedy like the one at Littleton.

When it comes to guns, a strong and morally persuasive argument for control can be made. But it is not what you keep from a child that will save him, nor what town you move him to. It is what you put into him in the first place.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Aid for Central America

The U.S. Congress is preoccupied with the president's request for emergency funds to carry out the military operation in Kosovo. That is as it should be; the necessary funds ought to be granted with dispatch. But in the process Congress should not neglect the other emergency request that unfortunately is still before it: a request for humanitarian aid that has become a pawn in a fight over fiscal virtue.

President Bill Clinton asked this year for about \$1 billion to aid the Central American countries decimated last year by the hurricane designated Mitch. There are all kinds of reasons for giving the aid, including the maintenance of economic and social stability in the affected countries and the prevention of an increase in illegal immigration to the United States. The need is not much disputed in Congress. But the bill has been caught up in a showy budget skirmish.

Under the rules, emergency appropriations do not have to be offset by savings elsewhere in the budget. Last year both parties took advantage

of that provision to increase appropriations well beyond what the rules supposedly allowed; they simply labeled as "emergency" a lot of appropriations that were routine. This year Republicans said no more and, to prove their determination, went too far in the opposite direction. They insisted on offsetting the Central American aid and chose as offsets some items to which they knew the administration would object.

Presto: a superficial political fight, the main effect of which was to hold up aid that should have been routinely granted. Already, some of the money will be too late to have maximum good effect. This bill needs to be cleaned up and passed in a form the president can in good conscience sign. There has been some talk of combining the two bills. That seems a good idea only if it will hasten passage of the overdue first appropriation. The Kosovo bill will take care of itself. The Central American bill, which ought to be so simple, seems to need a little help.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

A Stronger Europe Will Ensure a Stronger NATO

By William S. Cohen

The writer is U.S. secretary of defense.

WASHINGTON — In a speech in Amsterdam in 1948, amidst the tattered debris of postwar Europe, Winston Churchill proclaimed the goal of "a United Europe whose moral conceptions will win respect and whose physical strength will be such that none will dare molest her tranquil sway."

Fifty years later, his successor, Prime Minister Tony Blair, called upon Europe to move toward the realization of that strength by creating a European defense capability within the NATO alliance. That step, along with expanding NATO's current defense capabilities, will prepare the Atlantic alliance to meet the challenges of a new century.

As NATO leaders gather in Washington to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the alliance, we face our most difficult moral and physical test of the post-Cold War world: the human tragedy of Kosovo. On the rocky hill-sides of that ancient land we have encountered a reprise of the darkest moments of European history: women and children forced onto railcars for deportation, husbands and brothers slain kneeling in rows, whole villages reduced to ash by the searing flames of hatred — all in the name of "ethnic purity."

At the same time, we have also seen Europe at its best. Nineteen NATO democracies that did not turn away from the cries of the victims, that have taken strong and resolute action and that mustered the will necessary to confront the evil and destabilizing forces of our time.

Kosovo reminds us that European security challenges deserve solutions in which Europe can play a leading role. The European Union is a strong and growing economic force and should aspire to be a potent voice in European diplomatic and military matters as well.

To achieve this goal, Europe should continue to pursue a European security and defense identity within NATO. That will enable America's European allies to make a more effective contribution to missions and activities of the alliance and to act when NATO as a whole chooses not to be engaged. Such "separable but not separate" forces should enhance European military capabilities without undermining NATO unity or diverting European energies away from NATO.

In many ways, of course, Europe is

already deeply engaged in NATO's security challenges. Europe provides about four-fifths of NATO forces in Bosnia and almost all alliance forces now in Macedonia. Of the relief provided by NATO, the European allies are also supplying 90 percent of shelter and medical supplies and two-thirds of the food for Kosovo refugees. Thirteen allies are participating in air operations in and around Kosovo. Germany took the historic step of sending planes into combat for the first time in alliance history.

Nevertheless, as Mr. Blair has recognized, Europe needs to do even more. While Kosovo has been a full alliance undertaking, shortcomings in European defense capabilities have meant that some aspects of our operations have been exclusively American. For instance, when cloud cover obscured targets in Yugoslavia, it was mostly U.S. aircraft that had the technology to operate successfully.

The NATO meeting in Washington this weekend, the Western European Union meeting in May and the EU summit talks in Cologne in June will all provide opportunities for Europe to strengthen its defense capabilities. As Defense Secretary George Robertson of Britain has said, "Our ultimate aim is not so much a European security and defense identity but something altogether more ambitious — namely a European defense capability."

To realize that potential, European nations should consider jointly obtaining the tools necessary to develop the command, control and communications capabilities, logistical support and strategic lift needed for the next century.

Europe must also recognize that a credible military force requires strategic investment, reallocation of resources, regular upgrading of equipment, research and development, and restructuring to generate funds for new priorities.

With smarter spending, allies can do more without it necessarily costing more. Just by using the private sector to perform selected tasks in Bosnia, the United States has been able to free up troops for more pressing duties, reduce overhead and provide additional services.

There are those who wonder whether the United States will welcome a stronger, more confident Europe on the world stage. The United States believes that a stronger Europe means a stronger partner in the pursuit of our common interests and values. We have supported a united Europe for more than half a century for the very reason that a stronger Europe means a stronger NATO.

Kosovo also reminds us that the future will bring new challenges to our core mission of collective defense. An enemy empire no longer threatens to send armored columns into alliance territory, but the new century does present very real threats. Terrorism, in all its manifestly evil forms — cyber, chemical, biological and nuclear — is destined to present challenges equal to those of the Cold War. It is equally clear that the instability generated by rekindled ethnic hatreds threatens our

NATO's success will rest on its ability to create a 21st century force that is designed, equipped and prepared for 21st century missions.

common security interests and shared values.

It would be folly to sit within our borders and simply wait for these evils to befall our people — for terrorists to strike at our cities, for deadly germs to be delivered into our streets, for the chaos of a Kosovo to spread to our member states. As our British colleagues have noted, we must be prepared and "go to the crisis before the crisis comes to us."

NATO's very success as an alliance will rest in no small measure on our ability to create a 21st century force that is designed, equipped and prepared for 21st century missions. Allied forces must be mobile enough to "go to the crisis"; sustainable enough to conduct prolonged operations under austere circumstances; survivable enough to defend against terrorist, chemical, bio-

logical and electronic attacks; and able to effectively engage enemy forces by providing a tailored response to the mission at hand.

Individually, many allies are making progress in transforming their militaries to meet the missions of the future. Collectively, we must make NATO even more effective.

At the Washington summit meeting, allied leaders will endorse the Defense Capabilities Initiative to transform alliance military capabilities to meet the challenges ahead.

Through that initiative we will craft a common NATO command, control and communication architecture over the next few years and, as a result, will have a coordinated, integrated means to communicate among nations for the first time. NATO will implement a Multinational Joint Logistic Center to ensure that the right supplies get to the right place at the right time. We will improve sea and airlift capabilities so that allies can respond more quickly to crisis situations. We will develop technologies and tactics to cope with threats from biological and chemical weapons, terrorism and electronic attacks.

Our objectives, however, are achievable only if NATO musters the political will to capitalize on the momentum of the summit meeting to make tangible progress. We must each be prepared to work smarter and deliver on our promises to improve our forces and capabilities. We must embrace creative solutions that give our forces the training and tools they need to face the challenges ahead.

In that same speech in Amsterdam, Churchill said: "It is against tyranny, in all its forms, ancient or modern, new or old, that we take our stand. Tyranny presents itself in various forms, but it is always the same, whatever slogans it utters [...]. It is always the same and makes a demand on all free men to risk and do all in their power to withstand it."

Our alliance, created to oppose tyranny in the first tense days of the Cold War, concludes its first half-century by again standing up to a tyrant. Our ability to carry on this noble and necessary work in the future rests on our capacity to transform our defense capabilities to address the challenges silhouetted on the horizon.

International Herald Tribune

The Alliance Must Look to Europe for Leadership on Kosovo

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — A month of bombing in the Balkans has brought out the best and the worst in NATO as the 19-nation alliance votes toward its 50th anniversary summit meeting in Washington this weekend. The event will show that there is life beyond the Cold War for NATO but that it will be a difficult existence.

Not surprisingly, the organization was out to be poorly designed to conduct a small war inside a country controlled by a bloodthirsty dictator. President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia seems constantly to be a jump ahead of NATO's bureaucracy-bound commanders, whose slowness in adjusting tactics and strategy is paid for in agony by the ethnic Albanian victims of the heartless Serbian offensive.

The summit meeting offers the alliance's North American and West European members a chance to cut through the bureaucratic tangles that have plagued drawing up target lists, planning for the use of ground troops, stationing Apache helicopters in theater, imposing an oil embargo and other politically sensitive steps

that have been blocked or delayed in committee.

The cutting through will require a leadership based on a sense of NATO's true dimensions by President Bill Clinton, the summit host. This is his best opportunity to convince the Europeans, American opinion and perhaps himself that prolonging the war is cruel for the Kosovars and risky for the alliance.

After this weekend, military efficiency should no longer be subordinated to political considerations that have given Mr. Clinton smooth sailing to a remarkably unified gathering here, but let Mr. Milosevic have his way in the now devastated southern Serbian province of Kosovo.

Throughout its history, NATO has been a means of achieving goals — not an end in itself. The spreading sense of early ineffectiveness by NATO in the monthlong battle for Kosovo demonstrates the urgent need for the leaders to bring the alliance back to the unexcited but vital status of being a tool for stability in Europe.

NATO unity does not have

a value greater than the security the organization can deliver. NATO should not be treated in the almost mystical terms of glorification occasionally employed by Mr. Clinton and his aides, usually in self-serving attempts to claim expansion and revitalization of the alliance as part of this president's legacy.

What Kosovo shows is the natural strength of the transatlantic values and heritage that NATO has come to embody over the past half-century. It is those common values, and not diplomatic horse-trading in Brussels, that sustain an impressive sense of unity on Kosovo.

Public opinion polls show support for the air campaign at 60 percent or more in the United States, Britain, France, Germany and elsewhere in Europe. Mr. Clinton has a stronger hand to play in overcoming bureaucratic or political resistance from some of his partners than he seems to be prepared to use.

"Driving refugees across the border in this appalling act of inhumanity immediately solidified European public

opinion," Prime Minister Tony Blair told me in a pre-summit interview. That opinion "quickly became certain about the justification" for the war, he said. "The questions people ask now are about efficacy. They want to be sure that we are going to be effective."

This comment echoes a similarly practical, unsentimental view taken by the French president, Jacques Chirac, who has been pursuing with Mr. Blair an effort to lead NATO's European members in taking on more responsibility for European security themselves.

Mr. Chirac's strong opposition to any celebration at the summit meeting while NATO is at war helped persuade the U.S. administration to ditch plans for a black-tie gala. The French president has let it be known that he may skip the Saturday night leadership dinner at the White House in any case. He will make polite excuses, but the point for him is to emphasize that the Washington meeting is about resolving the Kosovo crisis.

Although France is not a member of NATO's integrated military command, French aircraft have been taking part in the raids on Kosovo with

strong public approval. Critics have questioned not French involvement in the war, but Paris being content to play second fiddle to Washington.

Even in Greece, where public opinion is strongly pro-Serb, the government is careful to cooperate fully with NATO and make its bases and facilities available to the war effort. Greece and Italy, also restive, have pledged humanitarian and logistical support but would not be expected to send troops to take part in a NATO ground attack.

The United States for reasons of history and of power hosts and leads this summit meeting. But this is the time for Europe to take on more responsibility for European stability, in the ways Mr. Blair and Mr. Chirac have begun to trace, and for the United States to welcome that development.

A regional solution for the Balkans — underwritten by European Union funds, policed by a peacekeeping force that is in its majority European and strongly backed by a new U.S. openness to a new European defense identity — offers the best path out of the Kosovo crisis.

The Washington Post

It's a Crazy Society That Allows Its Young to Be Armed

By Richard Cohen

WASHINGTON — On the radio, I heard a disk jockey wonder if the Colorado school tragedy was somehow the result of day care — parents working too much. I heard another person say something about the Gothic cult and the Internet and how maybe they were responsible for what happened. Pick your theory. The fact remains that we may never know what caused two kids to go so berserk. We do know, though, that no matter what influenced them, they had guns. This is how they did the killing.

The conclusion is so obvious that I hesitate to state it. Given a change in location and the number of fatalities, it is more or less what I wrote after the last school shooting, the one at Thurston High School in Springfield, Oregon, last May. Yet it bears repeating: The constitutional right to bear arms cannot — and was never intended — to apply to screwed-up high school kids with a Wagnerian bent. They in no way comprise that phrase in the U.S. Constitution, "a well-regulated militia."

The National Rifle Association and like-minded groups will say that the tragedy in Littleton, Colorado, is an anomaly — the sort of thing that happens rarely, although when it does it attracts lots of attention. They have a point. They will say also that the occasional abuse of

a right is no cause to repeal that right for the rest of us. In this, as well, they will seem to have a point. They do not.

Consider some of the early stories coming out of Littleton: The school had no metal detectors, no uniformed police roaming the hallways. In some accounts, the lack of security was reported in a can-you-believe-it? tone of voice. But in a different era, that tone of voice itself would have been inexplicable. Time was in America when no high school, no public building whatever, had metal detectors. We could amble into any building we wanted with anything we wanted. We were not always so afraid of guns.

But we are now. The Littleton episode is just the most recent school massacre. Recall the ones at Springfield, Jonesboro, Edinboro and Fayetteville, Paducah, Pearl and Bethel. These are bucolic names seemingly lifted out of some 1940s song about railroads and their quaint stops. But they are places where guns got into the hands of crazy kids and tragedy resulted. That is always the bottom line: guns and kids. It is a dangerous, combustible mixture.

New York City and much of the United States are now mulling over the death in February of Amadou Diallo, a West African

immigrant shot 19 times by the police. It was a mistake. He was unarmed, but the police purportedly thought he had a gun. The tragedy has produced a national debate about the role of the police, and specifically in New York, the city's vaunted Street Crime Unit. Its job is simple: Get the guns off the street.

To an amazing degree, New York has done so. In 1992 the city had 2,200 murders. In 1998 it had 600. Undoubtedly, many factors account for those happy numbers, but certainly one is the work of the Street Crime Unit. Alone it accounted for 40 percent of the guns seized by the police in New York.

Take a gun and you abort a crime. Stop a suspect, find a gun, and you have deterred crime, maybe a murder. The fewer the guns, the fewer the violent crimes and, almost certainly, the fewer the murders. Get the guns off the streets and the streets are safer. Guns do not protect us; guns threaten us. No one holds up a bank with a knife.

America is a society awash with guns — 222 million of them, we are told — and they are forever falling into the wrong hands. What is a Goth? What goes on in the heads of teenagers? The cult, the reverence for Hitler, the weird garb and the dark fascination with

death are so alien that to most of us it seems we are being told of a faraway place, an alien culture where weird people do weird things. But at bottom, we are talking about teenagers, of years we all knew, of mini-cultures that are a bit crazy, where emotional extremes are common,

where losers think they can turn into winners by killing themselves. To the young, suicide has a romantic aura.

To be young is, often, to be a bit crazy. For us to allow young people to be armed to boot makes us all a bit crazy, too.

The Washington Post

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1899: Italy's Allies

ROME — The visit of the French and Italian squadrons to Italian waters has given rise to a great deal of discussion regarding the relations of Italy to France and Great Britain respectively. There is general satisfaction at the improved political and commercial relations with France. But the large majority of the Italian people have no desire to modify the policy which is based on the Triple Alliance and the close traditional friendship with Great Britain.

1924: Coolidge's Policy

NEW YORK — A new declaration of the policy of the United States toward Europe was made by President Coolidge. He expressed the wish that America play its part in the rehabilitation of Europe, by extending a loan to Germany. The President announced

that he stood ready to summon the Powers to a new conference on the further reduction of armaments. The chief Executive bespoke on behalf of the United States a disposition to aid wherever aid would be valuable to America's neighbors.

1949: Socialist Award

MOSCOW — Four decrees were issued fixing the goals which agricultural workers must reach to win high Soviet orders. Six different awards will be issued to stimulate fulfillment of the three-year plan to boost dairy and livestock production. Hero of Socialist Labor, the highest award, will be conferred on individuals of collective and state farms which over-fulfill the year's quota by 50 per cent; the Order of Lenin for over-fulfilling by 30 per cent; the Order of the Red Banner of Labor for 20 per cent and medals for 10 per cent.

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Internet address: <http://www.ihb.com> E-Mail: ihb@ihb.com

Editor for Asia: Michael Richardson
5 Canhamers Rd., Singapore 119001. Tel. (65) 473-7765. Fax. (65) 274-2334
Managing Director, Asia: Kiof I. Oskina
#1201, 191 Jura Road, Hong Kong. Tel. 852-2923-1188. Fax. 852-2922-1190

General Manager, Germany: Thomas Schiller
Friedrichstr. 15, D-10523 Frankfurt/M. Tel. +49 69 97125040. Fax. +49 69 97125041

Regional Director, The Americas: Michael Grech
850 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. Tel. (212) 753-3900. Fax: (212) 758-8785

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Monuments in a Modern World: Relics of China's Past



People's Square viewed from the roof of the Shanghai Museum, which houses a fine collection of Chinese art.

A New Vessel for Ancient Treasures

By Seth Faison
New York Times Service

SHANGHAI — At the center of China's largest and most cosmopolitan city, the city fathers have completed a showcase of urban planning that reflects the times. A park in the middle of Shanghai, a long-neglected city that Chinese leaders have pegged as a model for the entire country, now embodies the best of China's efforts to become a more sophisticated and a culturally richer society.

The park is still called by its original name, People's Square, yet it now actually seems to offer residents a place to enjoy on their own terms, rather than at the instruction of a paternalistic state. In fact, Shanghai's leaders are so proud of the square, they hope and expect it will draw lots of tourists.

The jewel of this revitalized area is the Shanghai Museum, a marvelous contemporary building the color of sand and the shape of an ancient Chinese urn, designed by a team of local architects. It houses a majestic collection of Chinese art, easily the finest in the country.

Catty-corner across the square is a spanking new opera house, the Shanghai Grand Theater, another distinct architectural triumph in a land where hasty construction in recent years has littered China's cities with excess chrome and garish colored glass. The opera house, designed by a French architect, Jean-Marie Charpentier, has a curved roof that opens toward the sky like a giant offering plate. "Aida" was performed there last fall, and concerts and other performances are held nightly.

The park that lies in between these two new cultural monuments, with pleasant pathways lined with flowers and greenery, completes the square's sudden, more civilized, incarnation. A new City Hall on the far side of the park may look dull compared with its neighbors, but at least it avoids the Stalinist excesses of most government buildings elsewhere in China.

In many ways, People's Park reflects the remarkable transformation that Shanghai has witnessed in this century. In colonial days, when the city was dominated by French, British and American traders who divided it into foreign "cessions" with competing governments, police forces and styles of dress, the park was home to a race track where straw-hatted foreigners could parade in their finery. After the Communist revolution in 1949, the area became a barren square of concrete, a place to hold mass rallies.

In the 1960s, People's Park was the site of rallies by Red Guards, who often dragged "bourgeois" offenders to its center to be punished. In the years that followed, the square remained bleak and empty, as Shanghai languished and fell behind other areas of China. In the late 1990s the city was given the go-ahead, and the money, to redevelop Shanghai into China's premier metropolis, and People's Park was transformed.

One component, the Shanghai Museum, for years was housed in a dank old bank building that belonged to Shanghai's biggest gangster, Du Yuesheng, before the revolution. In 1992, eager to find a better showcase, the museum's directors took a risk, selling their old building to a real estate developer for \$25 million — even though they had no place to move. The collection was without a permanent home for four years while the museum directors raised the rest of the money for a new building and battled the city's bureaucracy for the right to give it a prominence befitting its rich contents.

Foreign donors, many of them Shanghai-born emigrants in New York, London and Hong Kong, provided part of the financing. The directors also relied on foreign connections to arrange visiting exhibitions and to obtain modern lighting and humidity systems. When the museum opened in 1996, its 11 exhibition spaces were named for prominent foreign donors, who had contributed around \$10 million in total.

The museum houses a first-class collection of bronze, porcelain and Chinese painting, as well as impressive displays of calligraphy, jade and classical furniture. Visiting exhibitions often include 20th-century art. Even better, the presentation is at once impeccable and accessible to those unfamiliar with Chinese art, with labels in both Chinese and English.

The exhibition of ancient bronzes on the ground floor may have been given a premier location because it is the area of expertise for Ma Chengyuan, the founding director of the museum, who recently retired. Decorated in dark green, the hall is lit only dimly, which gives an extra luster to the pieces on display, positioned on plexiglass stands that are so simple as to be nearly invisible.

Bronze epitomizes China's ancient civilization, and bronze artifacts became treasured possessions of Chinese aristocrats in the earliest known Chinese societies, more than 2,500 years ago. Although bronzes are often denied star billing, the bronzes here are so impressive that they should not be passed up. There are more than 400 pieces on view, though the museum owns more than 6,000.

CHINA'S CREATION The ground floor also houses a sculpture gallery and exhibition hall. The second floor ceramics section is particularly rich. As an explanation at the entryway puts it bluntly: "Pottery belongs to all mankind, but porcelain is China's creation."

The museum's calligraphy and painting galleries on the third floor are beautifully designed, with wooden floors and traditional Chinese roofing. Scroll paintings, many of them a delicate mixture of painting and calligraphy, are magnificently displayed on specially designed tables that tilt toward the viewer.

The Shanghai Museum, at 201 Renmin Dadao in People's Park, is open every day from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. It costs only \$2.50, or 60 cents, for anyone with a student card.

The Tablet Of Yangshan

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

NANJING, China — Three local Chinese tourists were harumphing their way down the mountain, indignantly complaining about what they had seen. I was heading up and paused to let them pass on the trail, so one of them advised me helpfully. "No point in going on. There's nothing there but a rock."

Well, yes. But what a rock! The Yangshan Stone Tablet, in the hills outside the old capital of Nanjing in southeastern China, is not on most tourist itineraries, and even many Chinese living in Nanjing do not know about it. And yes, I suppose it is just a rock.

The site is an old imperial quarry, nestled in a series of rolling green hills, covered with forests and occasional tombs of Chinese notables. The Emperor Yongle, who ruled in the early 15th century, wanted to have the grandest monument imaginable for the tomb of his father, the founder of the Ming Dynasty. So he ordered the construction in this quarry of a headstone in three parts — base, stele and cap. It was to be the biggest memorial in the world.

Court engineers found an appropriate spot in the quarry and designed a tablet that would have been 256 feet high (85 meters). Thousands of workers spent years clearing the hillside and carving the stone from the mountain. After huge expense and unimaginable labor, the three parts were chiseled almost entirely free from the mountain. Then the engineers began to think of how they were going to move the tablet to the gravesite.

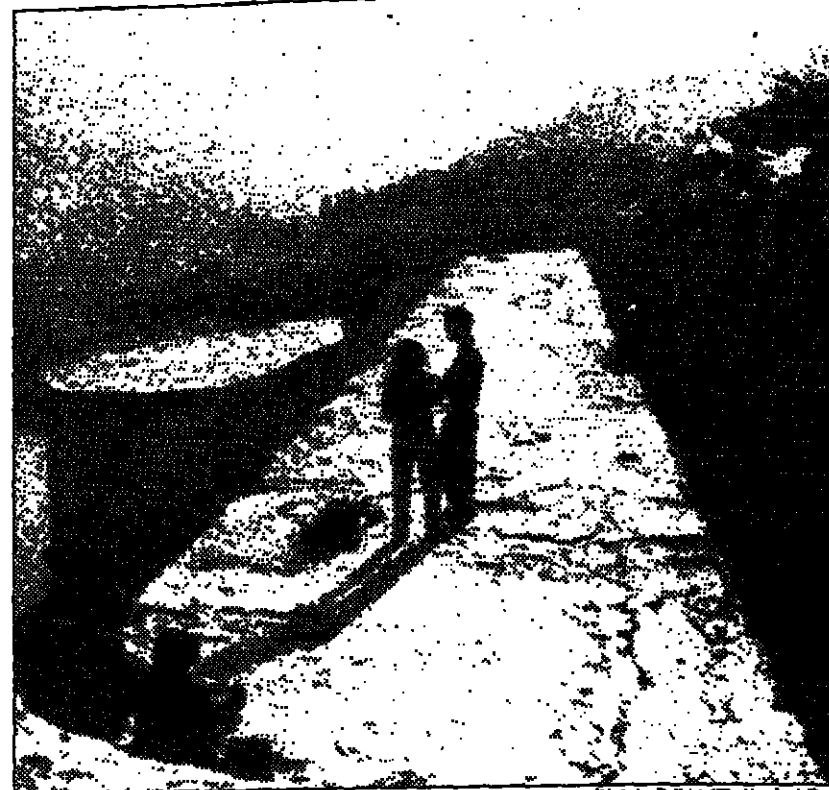
The tablet weighs 31,000 tons, and even today there is probably no way it could be budged. It would be far too heavy for trucks, even if there were roads to the area.

So the emperor's advisers explained to Yongle that while the work was mostly completed, the tablet was unmovable. It is not known how he reacted, but it seems unlikely that he took the news well. Yongle was one of China's great emperors, but like most of the great ones he was also exceptionally brutal, torturing and killing not only his critics but even their extended families and neighbors and friends. He was particularly fond of execution by an excruciating method known as death by a thousand cuts, causing opponents to bleed to death very slowly.

No Room for Dissent

Yongle had become emperor in 1402 by staging a rebellion and deposing his nephew. When one of China's great Confucian scholars, Fang Xiaoru, declined to express loyalty to the new regime, Yongle cut him to pieces in the city square and executed more than 900 people who had had some connection with him. I have not found any record of whether heads also rolled among those who planned the stone tablet.

In any case, work simply stopped on the headstone. The three parts of the tablet were left where they lay, and the centuries passed. But people with an interest in Chinese history periodically visited the spot to gawk at the size of the stones and to wonder at Yongle's vision and foolishness. And in recent years the local authorities have tried to turn it into a tourist site.



Tourists standing on the centerpiece of the tablet; the round rock is the cap.

Those plans seem to have failed. There is a gate, and when I arrived for my visit in February three people inside were standing guard and charging a bit more than \$1 a person for admission. I asked how many people visited, and one said airily "maybe 200 or 300 a day," but that seems a huge exaggeration. In the two hours that I was on the grounds, there were only a few other visitors around, and when I left the ticket takers were gone and anyone could have walked in free.

Just inside the grounds from the ticket booth is a large area set up years ago for souvenir booths, but none is in operation. A small tea house is open, but it was empty during my visit. I suspect that reality caught up with the authorities and forced them to abandon plans for a major tourist development. The bottom line is that far fewer people will come to see a historical site that represents failure than one that was a triumph.

From the ticket booth, one must hike about half a mile up the hill to the quarry. It is a pleasant walk, with occasional old tombs to explore on each side, and would make a pleasant place for a picnic.

Then you see the intended tablet base — a rock as big as a house — and after climbing up a set of stone stairs and past the tea house, you emerge in a flat area with a round cylinder jutting out, also house-sized. That was supposed to be the cap on top of the tablet. Just beyond that is the centerpiece of the tablet: a huge rectangular rock lying on its side and mostly cut out from the hillside around it. Only at one end does it remain fused with the hillside; everywhere else the workers carefully hacked it free and carved it into shape. Even the bottom is mostly detached from the ground.

There are a few trails around, and I climbed onto the hillside and then onto the tablet itself. There are no rails and it is a thrill to walk out on the tablet and peek down over the edge.

The tablet is a glimpse into Chinese history, offering a lesson in both outside imperial aspirations and supreme foolishness. It was the same Yongle who organized a great naval armada of 300 ships and 28,000 sailors that made seven great journeys to the Indian Ocean between 1405 and 1433, eventually reaching as far as East Africa. It was he who

moved the capital of China to Beijing, built the Forbidden City, invaded Vietnam and periodically warred with the Mongols.

Yongle, in short, never did anything in a small way. He employed more than a million people to build the Forbidden City and its 800-room palace (China then had a total population of 60 million), and he forced 120,000 households to move to the new capital.

DURING his frequent trips back and forth between Nanjing and Beijing, Yongle traveled with an entourage of government officials and courtiers and logistical personnel that made U.S. presidential trips look puny — and the emperor also always took with him 10,000 cavalry soldiers and 40,000 foot soldiers.

Yongle did some great things for China — it was also he who ordered the repairs of the Grand Canal that connected northern and southern China — but ultimately his grand projects bled the country dry. And in that sense, the great stone tablet is the perfect symbol of his reign.

There is something poignant about a project so grand and yet so foolish. I couldn't help thinking that it was because of projects on this gargantuan scale that China is no longer run by emperors, and that in that sense the tablet is more evocative of Chinese history than much better-known sites like the imperial tombs.

The most efficient way to get to the tablet is to hire a taxi in Nanjing and ask it to wait for you. Negotiate the fare first; you can hire a taxi for \$25 for four hours, which is enough to take you to the tablet and another, more famous site, the Ming tomb, where the tablet was supposed to go.

In Chinese, the tablet is known as the Yangshan Beilai, and most taxi drivers seem to know vaguely of its existence and can find it by asking around. The telephone number of the ticket booth is 410-7582.

Yongle is a fascinating emperor, but little known in the West. One book that discusses his life (although it is not a biography but a history of the armada that Yongle assembled) is "When China Ruled the Seas," by Louise Levathes (Oxford University Press).

Hong Kong Is Still Its Old Self

By Mark Landler
New York Times Service

HONG KONG — It has been nearly two years since this former British colony reverted to Chinese rule. But some residents are still startled when they see the words "Hong Kong, China" on a television report or travel brochure.

Old habits die hard, and Hong Kong is still in the midst of an awkward transition from colonial outpost to Chinese metropolis. The outward trappings of empire have been largely effaced (only the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club still preserves the Royal in its English name). Inwardly, however, Hong Kong has not completely thrown off its heritage as a Crown Colony in the exotic East. The Hong Kong Tourist Association promotes the territory's residual British flavor as well as its Chinese character and its cosmopolitan atmosphere as the most international city in Asia.

The regional economic crisis has compounded Hong Kong's identity crisis by slowing its capitalist heartbeat. Money is still being made here. But the gaudy celebration of wealth that characterized Hong Kong during the go-go years has been replaced by a more sober recognition of hard times.

Still, if you ignore the prevailing mood and walk the streets, Hong Kong feels very much like its old self. It throbs with the energy of 6.8 million people — buying, selling or chatting on their ubiquitous cell phones. Victoria Harbor remains a dazzling tangle of ferries, barges, cruise ships and the odd sampan and weaver past each other.

Kai Tak Airport, with its legendary rooftop-skimming landings, was closed last July, and the new Hong Kong International Airport has overcome a trouble-prone opening to win raves from

passengers. With its soaring marble-and-glass terminal and flawlessly efficient rail link to Kowloon and Central, the airport is a powerful reminder that Hong Kong is, above all, a city that works.

Information on Hong Kong is available at: www.hkta.org

With the weather turning tropical, Hong Kong residents head for the water during the spring and summer. On June 18, the annual Dragon Boat Festival will fill the city's bays and coves with decorative boats. With 22 oarsmen on each boat and a dragon scowling from every prow, this Chinese version of crew is a colorful display and a fun way to spend an afternoon. The races will be held in several places, but the most popular viewing spot is at Stanley, on the south side of Hong Kong Island. In July, amateur dragon boaters relinquish the field to professional teams from as close as neighboring Macao and as far away as North America. They will compete in the Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Festival, in Shatin, the New Territories, on July 3 and 4.

Performing arts are not Hong Kong's strong suit. But in May, the English National Ballet plans to bring a production of Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" to the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center. It will be the only Asian engagement of "Swan Lake," and the 120 dancers will be backed by 80 musicians from the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra. There will be five performances from May 5 to 8, including a Saturday matinee.

Hong Kong is an indifferent guardian of its past, with old buildings too frequently torn down in favor of non-descript high-rises. But a new exhibit of historical photographs, "City of Victoria," offers a fascinating record of Hong Kong's history. With photos dating almost from Britain's occupation in

1841, it tracks the evolution of Hong Kong from a primitive outpost to a modern city. The exhibit is at the Hong Kong Museum of History in Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, through August.

The cheapest and best way to see Hong Kong is on a Star Ferry. These redoubtable green-and-white vessels ply the choppy waters of Victoria Harbor every 5 to 10 minutes between 6:30 A.M. and 11:30 P.M. The view from the upper deck is one of the wonders of the world, with Victoria Peak hulking behind a glittering skyline, and the mantaray roof of the new Hong Kong Convention Center. Ferries serve Tsim Sha Tsui in Kowloon and Central and Wan-chai in Hong Kong.

FABULOUS SHOPPING Debarb on either side of the harbor, and several fabulous shopping centers beckon. In one of the few cities where shopping is a form of sightseeing. Although Hong Kong is no longer the mecca for bargains it once was, the shopping centers are vast, the stores are dazzling and you can buy everything from haute couture to herbal medicine. Among the most spectacular shopping centers is Harbor City in Kowloon. Adjacent to the Star Ferry terminal, it encompasses four shopping malls with 700 stores.

While Hong Kong's skyline is its signature, the natural landscape is its unsung glory. The territory sprawls across 236 islands, some of which are accessible by ferry and offer a different slice of life. Among the most charming is Lamma Island, a funky retreat southwest of Hong Kong Island popular with backpackers. The waterfront is lined with seafood restaurants and feels vaguely Mediterranean. A ferry sails from Central to Sok Kwu Wan on Lamma Island every 70 minutes. Better yet, you can take a junk from the Aberdeen fish market — a trip



Hong Kong is still in the midst of an awkward transition from colonial outpost to Chinese metropolis.

that is an evocative throwback to Hong Kong's fishing-village past.

One of the city's best seafood restaurants is Victoria City Seafood in the Sun Hung Kai Center in Wan-chai, east of Central. Seafood specialties, like deep-fried prawns at about \$8.40, are celebrated. Other dishes — like roast suckling pig (\$7) — are marvelous, too, though appetizers are small and wine is

expensive. Dinner for two with wine is about \$165. Reservations are a must, at (852) 2827-9938.

For a Cantonese feast, try Yung Kee at 32-40 Wellington Street in Lan Kwai Fong, the night life district. The house specialty is roast goose, sold by the hundreds every day, but still succulent, at \$15. Shark's fin soup is an extravagant delicacy, at \$17 a bowl. With the

soup, dinner for two is about \$130; (852) 2523-2343.

No trip to Hong Kong is complete without dim sum, and City Hall Restaurant, at Edinburgh Place, offers the quintessential experience. The cavernous dining room echoes with the clanking of trolley carts, bearing the bite-sized treats. Lunch for two is \$25. No reservations are accepted.

MOVIE GUIDE

Go
Directed by Doug Liman. U.S.
Borrowing truckloads of inspiration from "Pulp Fiction," Doug Liman's "Go" has three interrelated sections. It begins and ends at the same time and place, turns a banal spot into its central setting (supermarket instead of coffee shop), flirts with drugs and violence and lets its characters riff amusingly on assorted trivia. But derivative as it is, "Go" has a powerful personality of its own. Before the opening Columbia Pictures icon has even finished brandishing her torch, the film erupts into a hyperkinetic rave scene and it keeps flashing that kind of energy throughout. If Liman breaks no ground here, he does not simply appropriate the familiar. More often than not, he takes it by storm. The ensemble cast is young, quick-witted and loaded with attitude. Just the way Ronna, the cashier played with improbable grace by Sarah Polley, sullenly asks, "Paper or plastic?" on the supermarket checkout line is enough to signal a film in which nobody is dull. Sure enough, even when the screenplay by John August embroils Ronna in a botched drug deal, she remains a sufficiently sharp-eyed Alice to make her trip through a grunge Wonderland worth following. And Liman, who shot the film as well as directed it, gives all the characters "exploits their distinctive visceral kick. Some of those exploits are tired. (This is yet another movie in which a group of guys sprout off to Las Vegas and get into a mess involving strippers and gunplay, culminating in a chase dram-

atized by the town's neon lights.) And some turn nasty, but "Go" mostly sustains a nicely sardonic sense of adventure. Liman manipulates speed, light, editing and point of view vigorously and keeps the radio humming. He creates a film that lives up to the momentum of its title and doesn't really need much more. (Janet Maslin, NYT)

10 THINGS

I HATE ABOUT YOU

Directed by Gil Junger. U.S.
Among the crop of recent teenage movies whose plots parody stories from classic literature, "10 Things I Hate About You," a high-school "Taming of the Shrew," tries the hardest of any to season its screenplay with authentic Shakespearean touches. Students in a writing class at Padua High School (somewhere around Seattle) are asked to create sonnets. There is an Elizabethan-themed prom that inspires some fancy hand-drawn and fetid costumes. And every now and then the banter among the characters incorporates actual Shakespearean quotations. If it's all very clever for a teenage film, it also feels terribly forced. Like most of the other recent teenage comedies, "10 Things I Hate About You" takes place in a super-affluent, all-American never-never land where high schoolers drive fancy new cars and have lavish wardrobes. This housewife world suggests a vintage sitcom larded with sex and cushioned with money. It isn't any more real than "The Brady Bunch." (Stephen Holden, NYT)

ROMANCE

Directed by Catherine Breillat. France.
Romance is just the icing on the cake, the juicy center is explicitly sexual and the true story is about the masochism of a woman in love. If it's suffering she's after, Marie (Caroline Ducy), has made the right match: Paul (Sagamore Stevenin), her actor husband who seems to be congealed in narcissism, has stopped making love to her. The more she wants him, the more he averts his profile, wrapping his nether parts in white sheets, a study in male frigidity. She seeks satisfaction with a lusty stranger (porn star Rocco Siffredi), and in bonding sessions with Robert (Francois Berleand), Marie is a slender young teacher who makes spelling mistakes, Robert the stern principal who humiliates her, a Casanova proud of his S&M prowess. In an elaborate mise-en-scene, bound and gagged, Marie resembles a saint in ecstasy. Do you have to have been schooled in French convent to get it? Bondage may not be every woman's cup of tea, but that's the way it is with other people's sexual obsessions, hard to fathom. Breillat, a novelist, screenwriter and director, makes movies about the wild side of sex that are fine-tuned invitations to a clinic for couples in crisis, staged in an arid atmosphere. Much of "Romance" takes place in a white bedroom; Marie and Paul are clad in antiseptic white, down to their socks, lambs on their way to slaughter. And it's the slaughter, their desires and fears — fear of fruition, of fertility — that make up the quiet despair of "Romance." (Joan Dupont, IHT)

ARTS GUIDE

BRITAIN

LONDON
Royal Academy of Arts, tel: (171) 300-9000, open daily, To July 4: "Vasili Kandinsky: Watercolours and Other Works on Paper." The watercolours, gouaches, and prints give an account of Kandinsky's development as an artist from 1901 to his death in 1944 and highlight his breakthrough to abstraction and nonfigurative styles. www.royalacademy.org.uk

FRANCE

PARIS
Pont des Arts, Continuing/ To May 20: "Cassandre." An open-air exhibition of 80 large figurative sculptures of African warriors, as well as scenes from the Battle of the Little Big Horn between General Custer and his U.S. cavalry troops and Plains Indians in 1876.

GERMANY

BERLIN
Neue Nationalgalerie, tel: (30) 266-2662, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To May 30: "Max Ernst: Retrospective." Paintings, sculptures and works on paper by the German Surrealist (1891-1976).

ITALY

VENEZIA
Palazzo Grassi, tel: (041) 522-9875, open daily, Continuing/ To May 16: "Maya." Six hundred years of the development of the Maya civilization in Central America and Mexico. www.palazzograssi.it

JAPAN

NAGOYA
Nagoya-Boston Museum of Fine Arts, tel: (52) 684-0101, closed Mondays. The Nagoya museum opened on April 17 with two inaugural exhibitions that borrow from the collections of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts: To Sept. 28: "Monet, Renoir and the Impressionist Landscape" displays more than 60 works from 19th-century France, including 12 paintings by Monet and five by Renoir. The long-term exhibition, "Art of the Ancient Mediterranean World," which is due to run until March 2004, features more than 220 objects from ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome. www.nagoya-boston.or.jp

SPAIN

MADRID
Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, (91) 420-3044, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To May 16: "El Greco: Identidad y Transformación." El Greco's artistic literary between 1560 and 1600, during his Cretan, Italian and Spanish periods. www.museothyssen.org

SWEDEN

STOCKHOLM
Nationalmuseum, tel: (8) 457-0000, closed Mondays. To May 30: "Gustave Courbet: A Rebel Launches His Works." Approximately 70 paintings from European and American collections by the French painter (1819-1877). The exhibits completed after 1855 include landscapes, still lifes, portraits and several erotic nude studies in which Courbet consciously adapted to the tastes and demands of the contemporary art market. www.nationalmuseum.se

UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON
The Phillips Collection, tel: (202) 387-2151, closed Mondays. To July 18: "George O'Keeffe: The Poetry of Things." An exploration of the American artist's depictions of objects. The exhibition brings together more than 60 paintings and works on paper drawn from the series of fruit, leaves, flowers, shells, bones, crosses and doors.

CLOSING SOON

AMSTERDAM
April 25: "French and English Drawings of the 18th and 19th Centuries From the National Gallery of Canada." Frick Collection, New York.

ASIA

April 25: "Patron Jirohachi Satsuma and Japanese Artists in Paris." Nara Sogo Museum of Art, Nara, Japan.

EUROPE

April 25: "Portraits by Ingres: Images of an Epoch." National Gallery, London.

APRIL 25: "Chagall, Kandinsky, Malevich and the Russian Avant-garde." Kunsthhaus, Zurich.

April 25: "Mark Rothko." Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris.

April 30: "L'Abito per il Corpo, il Corpo per l'Abito: Islam e Occidente a Confronto." Museo Stibbert, Florence.

Compiled by Elisabeth Hopkins

THE FREQUENT TRAVELER

Heading for Gridlock in the Skies

By Roger Collis
International Herald Tribune

EUROPE faces terminal gridlock in the skies in the next five years unless the 37 member states of the European Civil Aviation Conference can agree on a radical new strategy to generate sufficient capacity at airports and in air-traffic control systems to meet the growth of air traffic in the next five years.

The challenge is daunting. The 27 members of the Association of European Airlines carried an estimated 177 million passengers on scheduled international flights in 1998—an increase of 13 million from the previous year. The association now forecasts growth of up to 9 percent a year, which means that the number of passengers will double about every eight years.

British airports handled 160 million passengers in 1998, a record. According to the British Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, demand for air travel in Britain will double by 2015, to 310 million passengers.

In 1998, 22.5 percent of the scheduled departures of planes affiliated with the Association of European Airlines were delayed by more than 15 minutes—a substantial deterioration over 1997. Seventy percent of delays were attributed to airport or air-traffic control congestion, or to planes missing their departure or landing slots.

CAPACITY TO COPE "We've got to provide sufficient capacity to cope between now and 2015 with something like a 120 percent increase in traffic—that's aircraft movements, not people," said Phil Hogge, director of infrastructure in Europe for the International Air Transport Association in Brussels. "Aircraft delays increased by 30 percent between 1997 and 1998 within Europe. Our concern is that with traffic growing at the current rate, the system will soon clog up. We'll be right back to 1987-1988 or worse. You remember people camping at Gatwick? This will translate to horrendous delays of several hours which

will not be socially sustainable. "What we're trying to do with this new strategy, is to reinforce the coordination between states of the whole air traffic system, which involves airports as well as airlines, to produce sufficient capacity to prevent delays. It involves integrating systems on the ground—terminals, aprons, runways, taxiing areas—with en route air space so you get a cooperative network across Europe. Unfortunately, states are not always willing to pool what they regard as their sovereign air space to achieve the most efficient system for European air traffic as a whole. So the strategy could be compromised."

The new strategy aims to increase capacity by up to 140 percent in three stages by 2015 with existing infrastructure while reducing costs and improving safety. It is the result of 18 months' work between all parties to air transport—IATA and member airlines, airports, traffic-control providers, civil aviation authorities, the military, general aviation and Eurocontrol, a Brussels-based agency that manages air traffic for the 37 states of the civil aviation conference.

The strategy depends on restructuring "highways in the sky" with new satellite navigation systems that will replace the radio navigation beacons on the ground, which makes life easier for air-traffic controllers and increases capacity.

There are three main reasons for hold-ups: airline delays, through late-arriving passengers or technical glitches; congestion at airport immigration and security points; the bunching of traffic on runways, and more traffic in the air than systems can handle. Planes are also delayed by weather, and all of these problems can have a ripple effect.

Talk to Hans Krakauer, senior vice president, and veteran consumer advocate, at the International Airline Passenger Association in Lisbon, about capacity and congestion at airports and he becomes irate. "The congestion problem for planes is one thing," he said. "The congestion problem that interests me is the effect on passengers. Everybody talks about techniques and forgets about passengers. Nobody gives a damn."

Talk about capacity should include passengers, not just planes. There's a lot that can be done with present airport capacity to increase capacity for handling passengers. The idea of slots has to do with parking a plane; it has no relationship with people. There is very little cooperation between airlines and airports, and what little there is in the interests of their efficiency, not the interests of passengers.

"What could be done? Coordinating arrivals, for example. You have two wide-bodied aircraft arriving at the same time and you can wait two and a half hours for immigration. Airports and airlines not only need to agree on slots but how this fits with passenger handling capability at airports. Nobody looks at that. If things go wrong, everybody blames everybody else. Once airlines have dumped passengers off a plane, they say, it's the airport's problem. But airports have no legal covenant with passengers."

The American Express Asia-Pacific Airfare Index for the first quarter of 1999 shows that fares—except for New Zealand and Pakistan, which have risen sharply—have stabilized after a year of substantial price increases. Business-class fares rose by only 0.5 percent last quarter and full-fare economy and discount economy by 0.5 percent and 0.3 percent.

"Good news for travelers, but the current pause in price rises is not likely to be sustained throughout 1999," said Eric Meierhans, director, purchasing management, at American Express in Sydney. "Flat fares this quarter have been caused in the main by improvement in exchange rates of many Asian currencies against the dollar after last year's devaluations."

Business fares are up 14 percent over the last three years and economy fares by only 10 percent. Meierhans predicts a widening gap between premium and economy fares.

Roger Collis can be reached by fax at (33-4) 93-74-77-92.

BOOKS

OCEAN SEA

By Alessandra Baricco.
Translated by Alastair McEwen. 241 pages. \$23.
Alfred A. Knopf.

Reviewed by Richard Bernstein

THE Almayor Inn, on some timeless and fabled European shore, is, like Joseph Roth's earlier Hotel Savoy, a place for the ingathering of comically or poignantly eccentric characters. The first one of these in Alessandra Baricco's lushly mystical new novel, "Ocean Sea," is a painter named Plasson who uses sea water to paint the sea, creating all-white canvases. A woman named Ann Deveria, wrapped in purple and thinking of her husband and her lover, roams the shore. Soon Elsewinn, a fragile teenage princess with "a most beautiful voice—velvet" who "slipped through the air, so that you could not take your eyes off her," is sent to the hotel by her domineering father to cure her congenital frailty. Others are present, including Ismael Adelante Ismael Professor Bartelboom, a daff scientist who writes daily love

letters to the woman he hopes one day to meet. The most enigmatic and darkest of the guests is a former seaman named Adams, who quietly nurses a sense of vengeance. And the whole is presided over by a coterie of precocious children, who are like the cherubs of a Renaissance painting: One of them furnishes dreams to the hotel's quaint inhabitants, another stares from a window ledge at the sea.

These lives, and several others, are going to intersect, amorously, comically and murderously, as "Ocean Sea" unfolds in its poetically elliptical way. Baricco is a literary cubist, a stylist who looks simultaneously at the several sides of things. He switches from one rhetorical mode to another, from a kind of symbolist poetry to grand adventure narrative to picaresque comedy, and the novel is masterfully reincarnated from Italian to English by the translator, Alastair McEwen. "The truth is that it's the music that's hard, it's the music that's hard to find, to say things, there so close to each other, the music and the gestures, to dissolve the suffering, when there is absolutely

nothing to be done anymore, the right music so that it may be a dance, in some way, and not a wrench, that going off, that slipping away, toward life and away from life, strange pendulum of the soul," and so on for another dozen or so phrases.

This style of writing can be precious, artificial, a kind of verbal craftsmanship for craftsmanship's sake, but generally I read "Ocean Sea" transfixed by Baricco's linguistic originality, the boisterousness of his characters, and the skill with which he weaves the threads of a seemingly disjointed plot into a single narrative strand. The pleasure of discovering the surprising qualities in this Italian writer, whose only previous novel was the erotic love story "Silk," far outweighs the occasional annoyance of his lapses into mystic mannerism. "Ocean Sea" is a flawed gem of a novel, an accident-prone beauty that took a great deal of talent and imagination to devise.

The sea provides a constant thematic presence, and there are shades of "Moby-Dick" here: the sea as a void, a blank slate, on which men and

women impose deep meaning. For some of the guests at the Almayor Inn, it is a cure for everything. Ann Deveria's cuckolded husband has sent her here because he thinks that "the sea air may cool the soul," and so on for another dozen or so phrases.

Baricco wraps everything up in a final series of chapters, each devoted to one of his guests at the Almayor Inn. In these final chapters, various mysteries of identity are cleared up, as we learn who, exactly, are the people we thought we had come to know. One reads with a bit of a frisson as Baricco shifts from a comic to a tragic mode, from the theme of antic love to that of patiently exacted revenge, with a surprise at the end. But as with the rest of this novel, Baricco's voice remains detached, wry, musical, always vaguely paradoxical. The characters remain very much themselves as they live out a kind of preordained destiny. But then Baricco wants to tantalize us with his cubist conundrums, and in this he succeeds very well.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

IF YOU TEST a computer's power to "think" by making it play chess, it earns an A+. Deep Blue, a computer program, defeated Garry Kasparov, the world chess champion.

But test a computer that has been taught to play bridge, and the result is different. Matt Ginsberg, a professor of artificial intelligence at the University of Oregon and an expert bridge player, has created GIB, which stands for Ginsberg's Intelligent Bridge-player. It proved itself the best of its kind when several programs competed against each other in Chicago in July.

But when tested against human experts, its strengths and weaknesses quickly emerged. It was superb in play and defense that hinge on analysis that can be dealt with mathematically. But it had trouble when it had to solve more human problems involving language, partnership, communication and judgment. So far, it deserves a B+.

GIB was in its element in

Lille, France, in August, when it competed in the World Pair Contest. There it had to handle 12 fiendishly difficult deals, and at the midpoint the computer was in the lead, ahead of 31 world-class human performers. It fell back to finish 12th, still a respectable performance. One of its successes was on the diagrammed deal, which it solved in five minutes.

NORTH
A J 6
7 10
—
—

WEST
A Q 10 9
—
—
—

EAST
—
—
—
—

SOUTH
A K
—
—
—

— better than nearly all the humans. South was in four hearts after a revealing auction. West has bid spades, and retreated when doubled to two no-trump, showing both minor suits. Four diamonds by North was a transfer to hearts.

West wins two diamond tricks and shifts to a low club. South ruffs in dummy, crosses to the spade king and ruffs another club. Now comes the key play: a low spade. If West wins this, South will cross-ruff to make his game. East must therefore ruff and lead a trump. South wins, ruffs another club, and reaches the position shown above. The spade ace is led and East must ruff. South overruffs, ruffs another club, and draws the missing trump. Two club winners score at the finish.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 "Diana" singer
5 "Tears" singer
13 Market manipulation
15 Uncontrollable, e.g.
16 Person with a whip
17 Valuable fur
18 Acquaint's annoyance
19 "May You" (Eddie Fisher's theme)
21 Upbeat tune
23 Aviation introduction of 1959

35 Water
36 Disclose
37 Tears
38 One of the Brady bunch
39 Charged
40 "Suzanne" songwriter
41 By and by
42 Health class segment, for short
43 It may come before we forget
44 Sources of "The Godfather"
45 Their creations may sting

46 Is crabby?
47 Part of 22-Across
48 Remove (crossed)
49 Wassail alternative
50 Hanging spot
51 Tanked
52 "You" (mouthful)
53 Sick, in Seattle
54 Make up
55 Squares in a restaurant
56 Bullyboys
57 Troop recital
58 "House of Frankenstein" director, C. Kaelton
59 They're worked by potters

60 Head hides
61 Best on the balance beam, perhaps
62 They're good at drilling
63 Language writer
64 Partridge
65 Café royale ingredient
66 Annular technique
67 "Be a—"
68 Her symbol was a cow
69 Emulate a 17-Across
70 Monitor
71 It has a heart, in song
72 The lord's servants
73 Anticatalyst
74 Sheep cup, e.g.
75 Perseus cap, e.g.
76 "Serpico" producer De Laurentis
77 Sanly
78 Good buddy's transport
79 Elbow
80 Letting-off point: Abbr.
81 They're all in the family
82 Kind of cross
83 Cause to beam

DOWN
1 Has a weeping effect
2 Golden Fleeca's source
3 "Das Boot" setting
4 It may be hot on the Web
5 Legal advocate: Abbr.
6 Supporter of arms, for short
7 W.W.I. II mercenary
8 Walks
9 Pack animal?

Solution to Puzzle of April 22
ABET MBS OSSO
MULE STROKE ABAB
BLUEHAWK RITS
NOT AGONIZED
EVENBETTER
MADRID RAPS
ATONE ROCKIE
DAP REINA END
EMAP CUBAT
ATRAP SEN GEMII
MISWISH HERDING
LIT EPISODE GLO
ADUI IITTOGHER
TEST ETUDE UTO
ESME LED OYST

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NDA

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Clinton has eased plicy to allow food s to be sold to Iran, an, officials said

resents a softening three countries the as long viewed as rorism and export- t. Page 10.

U.S. Beef

Union said Wed- ould ban U.S. beef e 15 unless Wash- e meat had no hormones. Page 11.

Page 7.
Page 5.
Pages 6-7.
Pages 18-19.
www.ibt.com

New Korean Air Chief Pledges Immediate Steps to Help Safety

By Don Kirk
International Herald Tribune

SEOUL — A professional executive replaced a member of the owning family as the head of Korean Air on Thursday, making a pledge "to do what it takes to ensure safety, even if it means reducing flights and cutting frequencies."

Shim Yi Taek, who has served for the past decade as executive vice president of the troubled flag carrier, vowed that his ties to the owning family would not deter him from instituting "immediate measures to regain the trust of passengers and people around the world."

The promotion of Mr. Shim in place of Cho Yang Ho as chairman came two days after President Kim Dae Jung blamed "authoritarian" family ownership for a series of mishaps in recent years in which more than 800 people have died. His remarks were triggered by the crash April 15 in Shanghai of a McDonnell Douglas MD-11 cargo jet in which three crew members and five people on the ground were killed.

The extent of the shake-up at Korean Air, however, was not clear. Mr. Cho was immediately named chairman of the airline in place of his father, Cho Choong Hoon, the airline's founder, who the airline said was "taking the entire responsibility for Korean Air's recent air-craft accidents." The elder Mr. Cho remains chairman of the Hanjin group,



Shim Yi Taek speaking Thursday at a press conference in Seoul.

which owns a controlling interest. Mr. Shim, described in a press release as the airline's "new president and CEO," has actually been chief executive officer as well as executive vice president since 1994, according to his résumé.

Mr. Shim, 60, insisted that he would take full responsibility for Korean Air operations, while Cho Yang Ho, 50, "will still provide counsel due to his vast aviation experience."

Mr. Shim also said that 29 Korean Air

executives had submitted their resignations "to take responsibility." Sitting at a table flanked by several of them, however, he said it was up to the company to decide whether or not to let them go.

The shake-up inspired limited confidence among Mr. Kim's staff and foreign analysts. "It's a first step to change the situation," said Lee In Suk, the minister for construction and transportation. "It will take some time."

"This airline has serious problems to address," said Edward Campbell-Harris, the manager of Jardine Fleming Securities in Seoul. "Maybe the new president will have the real authority to turn it around."

Korean Air stock rose 5 percent to close at 14,400 won (\$12.12).

Korean Air, now the world's 13th-largest carrier, is the only airline with a manufacturing arm, and critics say this arrangement has diverted attention from safety issues.

Mr. Shim was emphatic, however, that under him, Korean Air would make sure that safety was the top priority.

Eager to show that Korean Air had already adopted corrective measures, Mr. Shim played down Delta Air Lines' decision Friday to suspend a flight partnership with Korean Air.

Delta's decision was based on a report by a team of Delta pilots who came to South Korea to improve Korean Air's standards.

U.S. Profit Reports Fuel Stock Surge

By Jonathan Fuerbringer
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — First-quarter earnings reports from U.S. companies are pouring in, and they are pleasing investors.

Stock prices rose to records Thursday in response to the latest raft of robust reports. At the close, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 145.76 points at a record 10,727.18, the Standard & Poor's 500 index was up 22.70 at 1,358.82, and the Nasdaq composite was 72.48 points higher at 2,561.56.

The gains were led by IBM, which soared 23 to 194 1/4 after reporting late Wednesday that net income rose 42 percent in the most recent quarter. IBM's report followed strong earnings from a range of companies, including Citigroup, Boeing and International Paper.

Even Exxon, which experienced a sharp drop in earnings because of plummeting oil prices in January and February, beat analysts' estimates by a

penny a share in its latest report. And even companies whose earnings and revenues were forecast to fall, such as Coca-Cola, performed better than had been expected.

Positive earnings surprises are running higher than the historical average, covering about half the companies in the S&P 500, according to IBES International Inc. and First Call Corp., which track earnings projections and results.

If the trend continues, earnings this quarter could grow 9 percent to 10 percent, according to First Call. That pace would make the quarter the first with such strong earnings growth since the end of 1997.

But even more significant is the steady rise in earnings forecasts for all of 1999 by Wall Street strategists.

Without doubt, the overall economic outlook has improved both in the United States and abroad. There are signs of a turnaround in Asia, battered since the devaluation of the Thai baht in 1997.

European central bankers have cut interest rates to spark growth. Investors are betting again on emerging markets, and Brazil seems to be getting its problems under control just months after it devalued its currency.

Furthermore, higher earnings are looming for the oil industry, as oil prices have risen sharply in recent weeks. And better results than expected last quarter for U.S. industries, such as paper, and for cyclical companies that thrive when the economy is strong are causing financial analysts to make reassessments.

The brightening picture is encouraging investors to take a longer view and providing signs of support for the stock market in the months ahead. The overall rise in expectations is distracting attention from some of the disappointments, such as the earnings shortfall at Compaq Computer and Intel's weak first-quarter sales.

In just five months, Bruce Steinberg,

See PROFITS, Page 12

World Bank Chief Urges Social Element in Talks

By Mitchell Martin
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — Social matters are not receiving sufficient attention in suggestions to overhaul international financial regulations, the president of the World Bank said Thursday.

James Wolfensohn, whose institution provides development assistance to poor countries, said that suggestions for change by its sister organization, the International Monetary Fund, were not sufficiently broad.

On Wednesday, the IMF managing director, Michel Camdessus, said the topic would come up at the semiannual meetings of the two organizations next week.

Separately, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin outlined a five-point plan that the United States would propose, apparently with backing from some of its allies. The plan would end assistance to most countries that do not let their currencies trade freely, force private lenders to participate in international bailouts of

troubled countries, encourage countries to emphasize long-term borrowing over short-term loans, increase disclosure about borrowings and protect poor and middle-class people during economic crises.

Referring to the IMF proposals, Mr. Wolfensohn said, "We have a slightly different take on the international architecture in question."

The World Bank agrees with the IMF on strictly financial matters, such as "transparency and the issues of a common presentation of corporate accounts" and on fiscal policy and monetary policy, he said.

But he said "more fundamental issues," such as corruption and legal systems, needed to be dealt with along with the purely financial issues.

He noted, for example, that in South Korea, Thailand and Indonesia, three of the countries at the center of the global financial crisis that began in Asia during the summer of 1997, bankruptcy laws were inadequate or nonexistent.

Meanwhile Russia, another troubled



Mr. Wolfensohn speaking at a briefing Thursday in Washington.

borrower, "suffers from a lack of laws," he said. "If you have laws and a justice system which are crooked, it is very difficult to bring about a restoration of confidence."

See IMF, Page 12

Schlumberger Cuts More Jobs Over Oil Prices

Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — Schlumberger Ltd., one of the world's leading oil-field services companies, said Thursday that it would cut an additional 2,500 jobs as first-quarter profit plunged because low oil prices had reduced demand for its services.

The jobs, to be eliminated by June, come on top of 7,500 job cuts made since last July, Schlumberger said.

The company expects the cuts to help it save \$300 million a year. Schlumberger's first-quarter net income fell to \$89.2 million from \$378.3 million a year earlier.

Although first-quarter crude oil prices rallied from the 12-year low reached in December, they still averaged about 17 percent less than in the year-earlier quarter and oil-company spending remained depressed.

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A Giant in the Making?

Acquirer	Acquisition	Date
Deutsche Telekom	Telecom Italia	1998
Escom	Mobil	1998
Travelers	Citicorp	1998
SBC Communications	Ameritech	1998
Bell Atlantic	GTE	1998
AT&T	Tele-Communications	1998
Vodafone Group	Alpacom Communications	1998
Nationsbank	BankAmerica	1998
Comcast	MediaOne Group	1998
British Petroleum	Amoco	1998

Some of Deutsche Telekom's holdings

Deutsche Telekom AG
Telecom Italia
Escom
Travelers
SBC Communications
Bell Atlantic
AT&T
Vodafone Group
Nationsbank
Comcast
British Petroleum

Some of Telecom Italia's holdings

Telecom Italia
Escom
Travelers
SBC Communications
Bell Atlantic
AT&T
Vodafone Group
Nationsbank
Comcast
British Petroleum

Fallout of German-Italian Merger

Global One Alliance With France Telecom a Likely Victim

By Seth Schiesel
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Some details of the deal between Deutsche Telekom AG and Telecom Italia SpA may remain uncertain, but many executives close to the Global One partnership of Deutsche Telekom, France Telecom SA and Sprint Corp. agree that at least three things with important implications for the future structure of the global communications industry have become clear.

First, a merger between the German and Italian companies would spell the end of Deutsche Telekom's seven-year partnership with France Telecom. Even if a Deutsche Telekom-Telecom Italia merger never happens, the relationship between the German and French companies may have already been shattered by the German carrier's ambition.

Second, a dissolution of the France Telecom-Deutsche Telekom partnership spells the end for Global One, at least in its current form. It became clear last month that the Global One telecommunications alliance was on the verge of collapse; a merger between Deutsche Telekom and Telecom Italia would turn Global One's likely demise into a virtual certainty.

It is almost inconceivable that the U.S.-based Sprint, France Telecom, Deutsche Telekom and Telecom Italia could remain in a four-way partnership.

Third, Sprint, the No. 3 U.S. long-distance carrier, may soon be faced with the opportunity to redefine its international strategy.

For Sprint, that redefinition will probably mean deciding whether to link with France Telecom, a merged German-Italian behemoth or another international carrier. In 1994, Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom each agreed to acquire 10 percent of Sprint, and in 1996 the three companies formed Global One, a venture aimed at serving the communications needs of multinational corporations.

But the German and French companies already had their own partnership, formed in 1992 and code-named Atlas.

Top Cross-Border Deals Within Europe

Acquirer	Acquisition	Date
Deutsche Telekom	Telecom Italia	1998
Escom	Mobil	1998
Travelers	Citicorp	1998
SBC Communications	Ameritech	1998
Bell Atlantic	GTE	1998
AT&T	Tele-Communications	1998
Vodafone Group	Alpacom Communications	1998
Nationsbank	BankAmerica	1998
Comcast	MediaOne Group	1998
British Petroleum	Amoco	1998

Team Telecom Europe



The chief executives of Telecom Italia SpA, Franco Bernabe, left, and of Deutsche Telekom AG, Ron Sommer, announcing the merger Thursday in London.

to link with one overseas carrier with whom it shares a common vision might compensate for the loss of the third partner.

One rumor is that Deutsche Telekom would actually like to acquire Sprint.

But that could prove difficult because under its agreement with Sprint, France Telecom has the right to match any additional equity investment made in Sprint by Deutsche Telekom.

CURRENCY RATES

Cross Rates	April 22	Other Dollar Values	April 22
London (a)	1.6112	Argentine peso	0.9999
New York (a)	1.6157	Australian dollar	0.7541
Tokyo	120.05	Belgian franc	6.4937
Toronto	1.481	British pound	1.6460
Zurich	1.5094	Canadian dollar	0.7145
One euro	1.642	Chinese yuan	8.2794
One SDR	1.3521	Czech koruna	20.366
		Danish krone	6.46
		Deutsche mark	1.936
		French franc	6.5595
		German mark	1.936



هكذا من الله على

Philips Sees Rebound In Chips Buoying '99

AMSTERDAM — Royal Philips Electronics NV, the Dutch electronics giant, reported Thursday that its net profit in the first quarter fell 33.8 percent, to 469 million euros (\$497.2 million).

But the decline was lower than expected, and Philips shares closed higher.

Operating profit rose 47 percent, to 549 million euros. Analysts had forecast that operating profit would be about 324 million euros.

Philips forecast in February that its profit in the first half would fall, but it reiterated after the announcement Thursday that it expected double-digit growth for the full year as the chip industry and Latin American economies improved.



Jan Hommen of Philips at a news conference Thursday.

strong earnings at its investment-banking arm, Warburg Dillon Read.

Analysts were encouraged that Warburg Dillon Read had made a good start this year after posting a loss for 1998.

Separately, Imperial Chemical Industries PLC of Britain said net income fell 51 percent in the first quarter, to £41 million (\$65.9 million), as its bulk chemicals unit recorded a loss, outweighing profits at other divisions.

(AFP, AP, Bloomberg, Reuters)

Nokia's Earnings Soar As Ericsson's Tumble

HELSINKI — Nokia Oy, the global leader in mobile phones, reported Thursday that its earnings in the first quarter nearly doubled, while Ericsson AB, its rival and the world's third-largest mobile-phone company, said its profit plunged 50 percent.

Nokia's profit was 758 million euros (\$802.4 million), almost 20 percent above analysts' consensus estimate of 634 million euros.

"Nokia has the Midea touch in mobile phones right now; they are mining gold," said Lauri Rosendahl, an analyst at Aros Securities in Helsinki. "Analysts will have to substantially raise earnings forecasts for this year by 10 to 20 percent."

Nokia said the first quarter — with strong sales growth in all regions — had made it confident of reaching its target of sales growth of 25 percent to 35 percent in 1999.

The growth of our mobile-phone sales volumes exceeded market growth worldwide, and we further solidified our position as the world's leading mobile-phone supplier," the company said.

By contrast, Ericsson's earnings were below analysts' expectations. The company attributed the fall to rising costs from job cuts and development of new products and to declining prices. Ericsson's net income fell to 905 million kronor (\$108 million) from 1.81 billion kronor a year earlier.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

Investor's Europe

Frankfurt DAX	London FTSE 100 Index	Paris CAC 40
5500	6750	4500
5300	6500	4300
5100	6250	4100
4900	6000	3900
4700	5750	3700
4500	5500	3500
1998	1998	1998
1999	1999	1999
Exchange Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close
Amsterdam AEX	561.56	555.21
Brussels BEL-20	3,254.23	3,255.71
Frankfurt DAX	5,246.82	5,163.29
Copenhagen Stock Market	815.84	815.83
Helsinki HEX Generali	7,930.24	8,850.13
Oslo OBX	605.32	587.38
London FTSE 100	5,419.89	5,311.00
Norway Stock Exchange	871.08	868.74
Paris CAC 40	4,291.85	4,291.00
Stockholm SX 16	4,455.25	4,412.36
Vienna ATX	1,246.50	1,250.04
Zurich SPI	4,580.92	4,549.04

Source: Telekurs International Herald Tribune

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NDA

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n U.S. Beef

Union said Wed- ould ban U.S. beef e 15 unless Wash- e meat had no hormones. Page 11.

Page 7.

Page 5.

Pages 6-7.

Page 18-19.

Herald Tribune In TV Venture

PARIS — The International Herald Tribune announced Thursday an alliance with a London-based television producer and Radiotelevisione Italiana to develop and distribute current-affairs programming.

International Herald Tribune Television/Fact Based Communications Ltd. will be headed by Alan Friedman, who will continue to be the International Herald Tribune's global economics correspondent.

The first program, "IHTV Global Economic Review," will be broadcast May 7.

EU Threatens U.S. Beef Ban in Hormone Feud

BRUSSELS — With concerns over food safety running high in the European Union, prospects that it will drop its decade-long ban on U.S. beef containing growth hormones — the vast bulk of America's production — seem increasingly remote.

Indeed, the EU is talking about extending the ban to include all U.S. beef imports after an independent team of investigators said this week it had found evidence of hormones in 12 percent of U.S. meat certified as hormone-free — including chemicals banned in the United States.

Although the U.S. exports only

about \$20 million of beef a year to the EU, such a ban could seriously worsen trans-Atlantic trade relations, already under strain because of disputes over EU banana imports and other issues.

The World Trade Organization has given the EU until May 13 to lift its ban on hormone-laced beef, which was a response to consumers' fears that the hormone residues could cause cancer. The WTO said the Union had the right to protect health but had not provided sufficient scientific evidence of the risk.

The EU said it needed 15 months to complete investigations. During that period, it has proposed either allowing imports provided they are

labeled as containing hormones or compensating the United States through trade concessions.

But the labeling option, which might have provided grounds for a compromise, is under attack. Officials at the European Commission said the option had been undermined by the discovery of hormones in meat certified as hormone-free.

In the European Parliament, the spokeswoman for the Socialist group on consumer issues, Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, ruled out labeling as a solution to the crisis. "Everybody knows that the origins of processed beef cannot be traced," she said.

Sir Leon Brittan, the EU's chief trade negotiator, said the presence of

hormone residues "constitutes a clear violation of our rules" and might make it impossible to continue U.S. beef imports after June 15. A commission spokesman denied U.S. arguments that the EU's stand was protectionist. He said the Union allowed imports of 400,000 tons of hormone-free beef from other countries.

The United States vowed to maintain its stance, calling the dispute a trade, rather than health, issue. Reuters quoted Susan Esserman, the deputy U.S. trade representative, as saying: "Our goal remains market access. If we don't achieve that, we are prepared to exercise our rights under the WTO."

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Thursday, April 22

Prices in local currencies.

High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam AEX Index 561.56

Brussels BEL-20 3,254.23

Frankfurt DAX 5,246.82

Copenhagen Stock Market 815.84

Helsinki HEX Generali 7,930.24

Oslo OBX 605.32

London FTSE 100 5,419.89

Norway Stock Exchange 871.08

Paris CAC 40 4,291.85

Stockholm SX 16 4,455.25

Vienna ATX 1,246.50

Zurich SPI 4,580.92

Taipei TSE 100 10,100.00

Tel Aviv TA 35 1,200.00

Tokyo Nikkei 225 14,600.00

London FTSE 100 5,419.89

Amsterdam AEX Index 561.56

Brussels BEL-20 3,254.23

Frankfurt DAX 5,246.82

Copenhagen Stock Market 815.84

Helsinki HEX Generali 7,930.24

Oslo OBX 605.32

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Norway Stock Exchange 871.08

High Low Close Prev.

Kuala Lumpur Composite 634.2

Manila PSE Index 238.41

Paris CAC 40 4,291.85

Shenzhen 8 shares index 54.78

Singapore Straits Times 1842.37

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Helsinki HEX Generali 7,930.24

Oslo OBX 605.32

The 2,300 most traded stocks of the day.
 Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
 The Associated Press.

[illegible]

12 Month	High	Low	Stock	On	Yr	PE	High	Low	Lowest	Change
284	117	117	Belmont	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
285	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
286	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
287	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
288	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
289	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
290	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
291	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
292	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
293	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
294	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
295	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
296	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
297	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
298	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
299	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
300	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
301	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
302	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
303	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
304	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
305	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
306	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
307	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
308	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
309	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
310	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
311	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
312	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
313	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
314	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
315	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
316	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
317	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
318	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
319	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
320	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
321	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
322	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
323	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
324	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
325	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
326	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
327	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
328	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
329	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
330	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
331	117	117	Bell	15	15	15	15	15	15	15

[illegible][illegible]

Year	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
1900	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030

[illegible]

Continued on Page 15

هَكَذَا مِنْ الدَّمِ

Thursday's 4 P.M.

Thursday's 4 P.M.
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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[illegible]**AMEX**

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close
The 150 most traded stocks of the day,
up to the closing on Wall Street.
The Associated Press.

[illegible][illegible]

Sales	High	Low	Local	Crisp	Stock	Sales	High
1182	118	118	118	118	118	118	118
1183	119	119	119	119	119	119	119
1184	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
1185	121	121	121	121	121	121	121
1186	122	122	122	122	122	122	122
1187	123	123	123	123	123	123	123
1188	124	124	124	124	124	124	124
1189	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
1190	126	126	126	126	126	126	126
1191	127	127	127	127	127	127	127
1192	128	128	128	128	128	128	128
1193	129	129	129	129	129	129	129
1194	130	130	130	130	130	130	130
1195	131	131	131	131	131	131	131
1196	132	132	132	132	132	132	132
1197	133	133	133	133	133	133	133
1198	134	134	134	134	134	134	134
1199	135	135	135	135	135	135	135
1200	136	136	136	136	136	136	136
1201	137	137	137	137	137	137	137
1202	138	138	138	138	138	138	138
1203	139	139	139	139	139	139	139
1204	140	140	140	140	140	140	140
1205	141	141	141	141	141	141	141
1206	142	142	142	142	142	142	142
1207	143	143	143	143	143	143	143
1208	144	144	144	144	144	144	144
1209	145	145	145	145	145	145	145
1210	146	146	146	146	146	146	146
1211	147	147	147	147	147	147	147
1212	148	148	148	148	148	148	148
1213	149	149	149	149	149	149	149
1214	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
1215	151	151	151	151	151	151	151
1216	152	152	152	152	152	152	152
1217	153	153	153	153	153	153	153
1218	154	154	154	154	154	154	154
1219	155	155	155	155	155	155	155
1220	156	156	156	156	156	156	156
1221	157	157	157	157	157	157	157
1222	158	158	158	158	158	158	158
1223	159	159	159	159	159	159	159
1224	160	160	160	160	160	160	160
1225	161	161	161	161	161	161	161
1226	162	162	162	162	162	162	162
1227	163	163	163	163	163	163	163
1228	164	164	164	164	164	164	164
1229	165	165	165	165	165	165	165
1230	166	166	166	166	166	166	166
1231	167	167	167	167	167	167	167
1232	168	168	168	168	168	168	168
1233	169	169	169	169	169	169	169
1234	170	170	170	170	170	170	170
1235	171	171	171	171	171	171	171
1236	172	172	172	172	172	172	172
1237	173	173	173	173	173	173	173
1238	174	174	174	174	174	174	174
1239	175	175	175	175	175	175	175

[illegible]**NYSE**

Thursday's 4 P.M. Close
(Continued)

[illegible][illegible]

High	12 Month Low	Stock	Div Yr	PE	1985 High	Low	Latest Close	Change
200	100	3M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	4M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	5M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	6M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	7M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	8M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	9M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	10M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	11M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	12M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	13M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	14M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	15M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	16M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	17M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	18M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	19M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	20M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	21M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	22M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	23M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	24M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	25M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	26M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	27M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	28M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	29M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	30M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	31M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	32M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	33M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	34M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	35M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	36M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	37M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	38M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	39M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	40M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	41M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	42M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	43M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	44M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	45M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	46M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	47M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	48M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	49M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	50M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	51M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	52M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	53M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	54M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	55M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	56M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	57M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	58M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	59M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	60M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	61M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	62M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	63M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	64M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	65M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	66M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	67M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	68M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	69M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	70M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	71M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	72M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	73M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	74M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	75M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	76M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	77M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	78M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	79M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	80M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	81M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	82M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	83M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	84M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	85M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	86M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	87M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	88M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	89M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	90M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	91M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	92M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	93M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	94M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	95M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	96M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	97M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	98M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	99M	30	11	200	100	100	0
200	100	100M	30	11	200	100	100	0

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

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: initial explanation contrasted with earlier this month in a column of closing a road near the site then for the first time had indeed gained only minor notoriety publicly. He said so quickly that he, Javier Solana, was in the afternoon, he said, and said

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Page 10

NDA

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Clinton has eased policy to allow food to be sold to Iran, officials said

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Page 10.

U.S. Beef

Page 7.
Page 5.
Pages 6-7.
Pages 18-19.
www.ihf.com

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"You can't underestimate the appetite for stock purchasing," said Mr. Pasternak of Knight/Trimark. "What if it's there and you're not?"

Luxembourg, April 23, 1999

April 22, 1996
<http://www.fbi.com/INTEFUN/funds.html>

The data in the list above is the data supplied by the fund groups to Standard & Poor's Microcap SA. It is collected and reformatted into the list before being transmitted to the IHT. Standard & Poor's Microcap and the IHT do not warrant the quality or accuracy of the list, the data or the performance of any of the Fund Groups and will not be liable for the list, the data or the performance of any of the Fund Groups in any event. The list is not and shall not be deemed to be an offer by the IHT or Standard & Poor's Microcap to sell securities or investments of any kind, investments can list as well as not. Past performance does not guarantee a return or success. It is not intended to be a recommendation or offer to sell or buy any security or investment.

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Report of Alliance Lifts Japan Telecom Stock

TOKYO — A report that British Telecom PLC and AT&T Corp. have agreed to take stakes in a Japan Telecom Co. sent shares in the Japanese long-distance telecommunications company soaring 11 percent on Thursday.

The deal would be the first major investment by foreign companies in Japan's deregulating telecommunications sector. It follows the mammoth merger of Deutsche Telekom AG and Telecom Italia SpA, which will create the world's largest telephone company and is the latest combination in the rapidly consolidating global telecommunications industry.

Japan Telecom shares closed at 1.68 million yen, up 160,000, or 11 percent.

Under the deal, reported Thursday in the daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun, AT&T and British Telecom will each hold a 15 percent stake in Japan Telecom, the country's third-largest long-distance phone carrier,

and will gain a seat on the company's board of directors.

Reports said BT and AT&T would pay about 180 billion yen (\$1.5 billion) each for 15 percent stakes in Japan Telecom, which provides leased-line and long-distance services through fiber-optic networks running along railway lines.

The newspaper said the three companies were planning a broad alliance in which AT&T and BT would integrate most of their Japanese operations with Japan Telecom. The combined entity would offer Internet and other data communication services to multinational corporations, the newspaper added.

BT and AT&T would buy new shares in a private placement, the paper said. East Japan Railway Co. would also take on new shares and remain as Japan Telecom's top shareholder, it said.

A Japan Telecom spokeswoman said the company had taken no steps

regarding a foreign alliance.

"Nothing has been decided on such an issue," she said. "We will not even comment on whether we are in discussions."

A spokesman for British Telecom declined to comment on the rumors but said, "BT does already have interests in Japan, and it has never made a secret that it is interested in having a greater interest there."

Chiyoko Saeki, a spokeswoman for AT&T in Tokyo, also refused to comment.

The reported deal would be a setback for BT and AT&T, since they had aspired to take nearly 40 percent of Japan Telecom — enough to have a veto over major management decisions.

An agreement would bring major benefits to BT and AT&T, allowing them access to corporate clients in Japan and giving a lift to their data business through the use of Japan Telecom's network, analysts said.

But analysts and rival telecom-

munications companies argued that the entry of foreign entities, at least in the near term, would bring few benefits to the industry, which is dominated by the former state monopoly, Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp.

"This does nothing to boost competition," said Makiko Inui, analyst at Nikko Salomon Smith Barney (Japan). "If BT and AT&T have no plans to install networks of their own in Japan in a big way, you are just seeing new names on the list of Japan Telecom's shareholders."

The NTT President, Junichiro Miyazu, has said the arrival of foreign companies would represent an opportunity rather than a threat for his company. He expects foreign operators to lease networks from NTT, rather than building their own.

For Japan Telecom, weighed down by competition to cut rates and by heavy investment burdens, the deal offers a quick infusion of cash. (AFP, AP, Bridge News, Reuters)

GITIC's Assets Fall Short of Expectations

By Mark Landler

New York Times Service

HONG KONG — Dealing another blow to foreign banks, a Chinese bankruptcy court said Thursday that it expected to recover only \$783 million in assets from one of China's largest and most troubled state companies.

The company, Guangdong International Trust & Investment Corp., or GITIC, has been in bankruptcy since last October when it capsize under \$4.3 billion in debt. At a meeting of creditors in Guangzhou, the provincial capital of Guangdong, the bankruptcy court said that foreign and Chinese banks had lodged \$5.66 billion in claims against GITIC and three subsidiaries.

Although GITIC's creditors have been steeling themselves for heavy losses since the sudden bankruptcy last autumn, the banks now face the likelihood of recovering less than one-fifth of their original loans.

"It's disappointing," said T.K. Chang, a lawyer at Coudert Brothers in Hong Kong, who attended the meeting as a representative of South Korean banks. "Previously, we would have gotten about 60 cents on the dollar."

Mr. Chang based that estimate on an earlier assessment of GITIC's finances, in which the company was reported to have \$2.6 billion in assets and \$4.7 billion in liabilities. Since then, however, GITIC's liabilities have edged up while the quality of its assets has deteriorated.

Foreign investors are watching GITIC's bankruptcy proceedings as a test case of how China will deal with its financially troubled corporate sector. Although GITIC is so far the only investment trust company to be forced into bankruptcy, several others have defaulted on loan payments.

The court gave several reasons for its inability to extract more money from GITIC, most stemming from its disastrous real-estate ventures.

Investor's Asia

Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	12,933.54	12,543.76	+3.11
Singapore	Straits Times	1,862.39	1,842.33	+1.09
Sydney	All Ordinaries	3,118.30	3,068.30	+1.63
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	16,865.88	16,495.02	+1.04
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	636.43	616.70	+3.20
Bangkok	SET	402.33	397.93	+1.11
Seoul	Composite Index	740.40	743.26	-0.38
Taipei	Stock Market Index	7,494.60	7,474.16	+0.27
Manila	PSE	2,838.41	2,812.97	+1.10
Jakarta	Composite Index	478.24	480.63	-0.29
Wellington	NZSE-40	2,225.11	2,197.56	+1.25
Bombay	Sensitive Index	3,406.74	3,494.54	-1.61

Source: Reuters

International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- South Korea said its unemployment rate fell to 6.7 percent in March from 7.1 percent a month earlier.
- Sumitomo Life Insurance Co., Tokyo Mutual Life Insurance Co. and Mitsui Mutual Life Insurance Co. got lower ratings from Moody's Investors Service Inc., which warned of their weak capital and poor profits.
- National Semiconductor Corp. laid off 165 workers, about 10 percent of the total at its Singapore plant.
- Mitsukoshi Ltd., a Japanese department-store operator, will cut 10 percent of its work force of 9,622 and sell assets valued at 20.6 billion yen (\$171 million) to try to reduce debt.
- Acer Inc. and Computer Associates International Inc. said in Taipei that they were setting up a joint venture to develop business-management software.
- Carlsberg Brewery Co. will pay \$50.4 million for 16 percent of Hite Brewery Co. of South Korea and lend it \$50 million to help it restructure its debts.
- Marubeni Corp., a Japanese trading house, will buy four French agricultural companies over the next two years in a deal valued at 5 billion yen (\$41 million).
- Kao Corp., a Japanese household-products maker, said net income rose 41.7 percent to 34.7 billion yen, in its latest year.
- Philippine Airlines must arrange massive job cuts and find \$200 million in new capital by June 4 or face closure, a government regulator said.

AFP, Bloomberg, AP, Reuters

Seoul Announces Hyundai-LG Plan

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — Hyundai Group has agreed to buy LG Semicon Co., a memory chip-making arm of LG Group for 2.56 trillion won (\$2.15 billion), a government official said Thursday.

The agreement ended months of negotiations over the price of a deal that is a key part of government efforts to restructure South Korea's conglomerates, or chaebol.

"You can consider it a deal done because there are only procedural matters left," said Lee Hun Ja, head of the government's Financial Supervisory Commission, which oversees corporate reforms.

The two groups acknowledged that they were close to agreement. Hyundai will take over a 59.98-percent stake in LG Semicon, according to press reports. (AP, Bloomberg)

Thai Banks Post Losses on Defaults

Bloomberg News

BANGKOK — A wave of Thailand's commercial banks reported losses in the first quarter Thursday as loan defaults soared and delays in strengthening bankruptcy legislation left lenders with little recourse.

For most, it was the fourth consecutive quarter of losses. With bad loans up five-fold in the past year, few bankers expect improvement soon.

At the end of March, nearly half of Thailand's bank loans were in default, leaving the 13 full-service banks with \$60 billion of bad debt.

"We're seeing accounts of all sizes miss payments, though the bigger customers tend to be more bold in not paying," said Krang Thakla, a branch manager for Bangkok Bank PCL, the country's largest bank.

Bangkok Bank posted a loss of 9.9 billion baht (\$265 million) in the quarter, compared with a profit of 55 million baht the same period a year earlier. Thai Farmers, the country's

third largest bank, reported a loss of 7.2 billion baht, compared with a profit of 134 million baht. Thai Farmers' biggest expense was 7.6 billion baht for defaults. Still, it serves set aside were barely half what many analysts expected.

Defaults have outstripped the fund-raising abilities of some firms, eroding their finances and forcing the government to prepare to buy controlling stakes in Siam Commercial Bank PCL and Nakhonchulalongkorn Bank PCL. The state already owns 6 of the 13 banks, most seized in the past 15 months.

"With nonperforming loans system-wide approaching 30 percent, the government must act promptly," Standard & Poor's Corp. said in a credit report this week. The cost to the government of restructuring its banking system will be 35 percent of 1998 economic output, or about \$125 billion, S&P said.

Earnings were also squeezed by the reluctance of banks to extend

new loans in the fear that they would also sour.

Even as banks slashed interest rates during the quarter, they were "still unwilling to lend" because of risk of more defaults, said Fong Cheng Hong, chief strategist for debt capital markets for Nomura Singapore.

Delays in bankruptcy and foreclosure laws designed to make it easier for creditors to seize collateral also curbed new credit.

Many cash-rich borrowers are simply refusing to service credits because they face limited risk. S&P said Thailand risked "a collapse of the payment culture."

The House of Representatives and Senate last month approved several bills on bankruptcy and foreclosure, but they have yet to be signed into law.

Thailand had pledged to the International Monetary Fund that the series of 11 laws would be in place by October 1998.

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For information please contact:
Lyora Rambo: Fax 323-11 43 92 12 or e-mail: lyora@mt.com

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April 22, 1999
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SPORTS

Clemens Wins His 17th Straight

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Roger Clemens heard the boos in the first inning and again in the fourth. They were scattered and lasted only a few seconds, but the fans berated Clemens because he was not throwing strikes consistently and because he allowed a home run to Todd Zeile. Clemens expects a lot from himself, and New York fans obviously expect a lot from him.

Of course, Clemens was serenaded by the fans as well as he helped the New York Yankees quiet the Texas Rangers, 4-2, Wednesday and inflate his two-season streak to 17 victories, matching the American League record shared by Dave McNally of Baltimore (1968-69) and Johnny Allen of Cleveland (1936-37).

Clemens was more bullish than dominant, but it was enough because he limited the Rangers to no hits in 14 at-bats with runners on base. So, in the end, Clemens gave the fickle fans and the revived Yankees exactly what they wanted: another businesslike victory.

Derek Jeter's two-run homer, which sneaked inside the right-field pole, keyed a pivotal three-run fifth inning that gave the Yankees their seventh victory in eight home games this season. Clemens has not lost since Cleveland beat him, 7-3, last May 29.

His streak seemed hard to fathom even for the Don Zimmer, the Yankees' interim manager, who has been in baseball for 51 years.

"I would say," Zimmer said slowly, "it's one heck of a streak."

In other games, The Associated Press reported:

Devil Rays 14, Orioles 6 Jose Canseco homered twice to raise his total to a major league-leading eight as Tampa

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Bay beat visiting Baltimore. The Devil Rays pounded Mike Mussina for 10 runs and 11 hits in 3 1/2 innings.

Blue Jays 3, Angels 2 Willie Greene hit a two-run homer as Toronto won its seventh straight. Visiting Anaheim, which has nine men on the disabled list, has lost four in a row.

Indians 5, Athletics 4 Cleveland rallied from a 4-0 deficit to win at home as Richie Sexson hit a game-tying, two-run homer in the ninth and the pinch-runner Jolbert Cabrera scored from first on a throwing error by A.J. Hinch, the Oakland catcher.

Tigers 9, Red Sox 2 Dean Palmer broke out of a slump with two home runs as Detroit beat visiting Boston.

White Sox 2, Mariners 1 Frank Thomas drove in two runs with a fielder's choice in the eighth as the White Sox beat Seattle in Chicago.

Royals 3, Twins 2 Rey Sanchez hit a triple to lead off the 10th inning and Carlos Beltran followed with a sacrifice fly as Kansas City beat Minnesota to gain a rare home victory.

Padres 2, Pirates 0 Andy Ashby pitched eight strong innings and Reggie Sanders homered as the Padres stopped Pittsburgh's four-game winning string.

Astros 10, Cubs 3 Jeff Bagwell hit three homers, passing Jimmy Wynn for the most in team history, and drove in six runs as Houston won in Chicago.

Braves 11, Dodgers 4 Javy Lopez hit his second homer of the game during a seven-run burst in the 12th inning that led Atlanta to victory at Dodger Stadium.

Brewers 2, Cardinals 1 Dave Nilsson hit a solo home run as host Milwaukee beat a St. Louis team missing Mark McGwire, who has a tight hamstring.

Giants 4, Marlins 0 Joe Nathan pitched seven scoreless innings in his major league debut as San Francisco beat Florida at home. Nathan, a former shortstop who had never played above Double-A, gave up four hits and struck out four. His fastball was clocked at 97 miles (156 kilometers) per hour.

Diamondbacks 4, Phillies 2 Matt Williams hit a three-run homer as Arizona swept Philadelphia and finished its home stand with an 8-2 record.

Reds 7, Mets 4 Greg Vaughn hit a two-run homer in a six-run fourth inning that gave Cincinnati victory in New York.

Montreal and Colorado called off their game at Coors Field for the second straight day because of the shooting in suburban Denver. The Rockies will wear a Columbine High School patch on their right sleeves for the rest of the season.

Rockets Fizzle Against Mavericks

The Associated Press

Of the 21 teams still in contention for playoff berths, 17 played on a busy night in the National Basketball Association. Some of the top teams stumbled.

The Houston Rockets and Utah Jazz had the most surprising losses on Wednesday.

Mavericks 109, Rockets 95 Michael Finley had 27 points and 11 assists as Dallas surprised its fourth playoff contender in six games.

"To get that kind of performance is baffling," the Rockets' coach, Rudy Tomjanovich, said after his team allowed Dallas to win just its third road game of the season. The Rockets were kept from clinching a playoff spot.

The Mavericks led by as many as 26 points against the Rockets, who never recovered after allowing an 11-0 run in the first quarter.

Gary Trent had 24 points and 10 rebounds, and Dirk Nowitzki, a rookie, added 22 points for his fifth double-figure performance in the last six games.

Suns 91, Jazz 82 Jason Kidd had 21 points and 12 assists as the Phoenix Suns beat visiting Utah.

The Suns squandered a 21-point lead before staging a late rally to pull into a tie for the sixth playoff spot in the Western Conference with Minnesota.

"I have not figured this team out yet," the Suns' coach, Danny Ainge, said. "I do not know what is going on."

Karl Malone had 28 points and 13 rebounds for league-leading Utah.

Hornets 88, Pistons 85 Charlotte ran its winning streak to nine games and moved into eighth place in the East.

NBA ROUNDUP

The Hornets overcame the absence of Eddie Jones and got a season-high 32 points from Elden Campbell.

Grant Hill had 28 points, nine rebounds and six assists for visiting Detroit, which has failed to score more than 86 points in its last six games.

Trail Blazers 88, Lakers 82 Rasheed Wallace had 21 points and nine rebounds as Portland improved to 2-0 against visiting Los Angeles and moved with a half-game of Utah for the best record in the league. The Lakers rallied from 13 points down, faltering in the final minutes.

Heat 83, Cavaliers 80 Dan Majerle was 4-of-5 on 3-pointers and scored 14 points as the Heat beat Cleveland in Miami to take over first place in the Atlantic Division.

Pacers 108, Bucks 100 Jalen Rose scored 25 points, including four free throws in the final 20 seconds of over-

time, as the Pacers beat Milwaukee in Indianapolis.

SuperSonics 118, Timberwolves 105 Don MacLean started in place of the injured Vin Baker, and the forward had season highs of 21 points and 10 rebounds as the SuperSonics beat Minnesota in Seattle and stayed tied for eighth place in the West.

Kings 103, Warriors 94 Chris Webber scored 25 points and Vlade Divac had 20 as Sacramento beat visiting Golden State to stay tied with Seattle. The Warriors dropped two games behind them in the race for the eighth postseason spot.

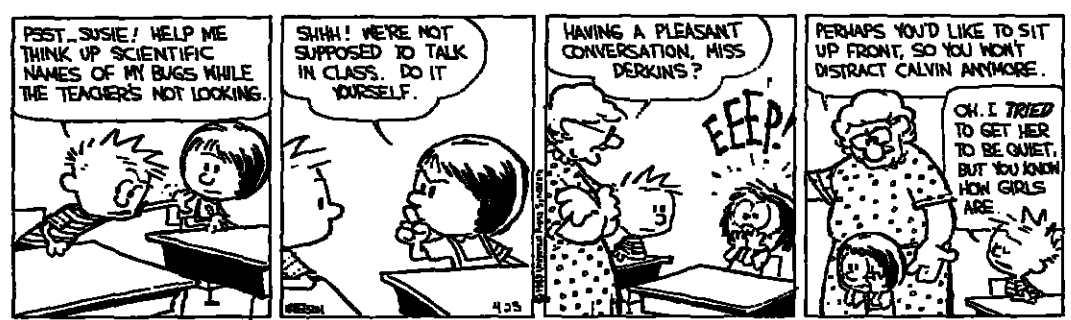
Raptors 107, Wizards 91 Dee Brown shot 6-for-6 on 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and Doug Christie scored a season-high 28 points as Toronto won in Washington.

76ers 80, Celtics 78 Allen Iverson had 25 points and Theo Ratliff scored the winning points on a layup with 7 seconds left as Philadelphia won in Boston.

Nets 89, Bulls 87 Keith Van Horn scored 28 points and the Nets shot 23-for-23 at the foul line to win at home and avoid tying Chicago for the worst record in the Eastern Conference.

Grizzlies 97, Clippers 94 Shareef Abdur-Rahim scored 29 points and had a career-high six blocks in a Vancouver meeting of the league's worst teams.

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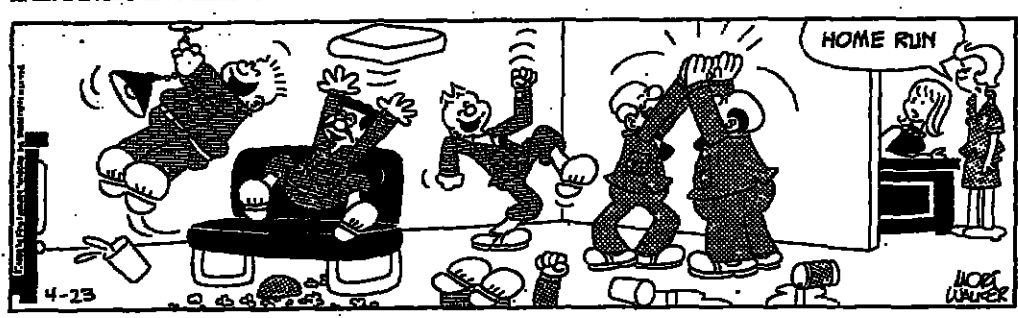
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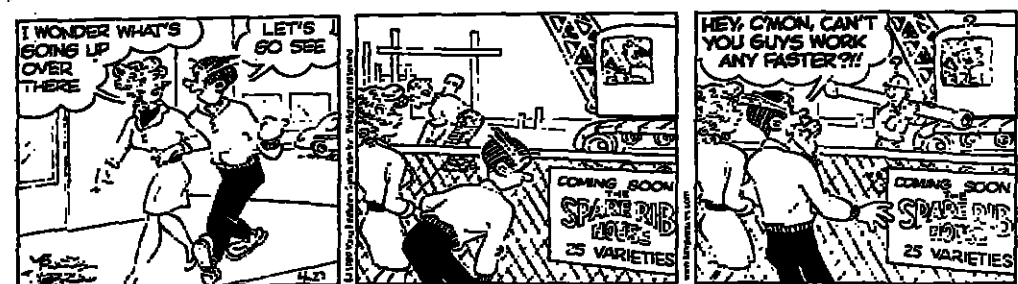
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POSTCARD

Still for the People?

By Evelyn Nieves
New York Times Service

BERKELEY, California — On days when the sun looks kindly on it, People's Park can seem like a quaint little town.

The people who live nowhere in particular picnic on the east end, on benches in a grove. A smattering of bodies flop on the uncombed lawn. Community gardeners tend their patches on the west end, and the few nearby drug addicts are camouflaged by shrubs, easily overlooked.

Volunteers rebuilding the Free Speech stage near the free-clothes box and others painting the finishing touches on a banner for the park's 30th anniversary celebration, to be held this Sunday, simply could not believe that anyone would want to change a thing about this vestige of the '60s protest movement.

But the fact is that a great many people avoid People's Park. In a sure sign of the widespread distaste for the place, even in a city that proudly retains its liberal reputation, a local columnist recently suggested that the park would make a better strip mall or parking garage. And on an afternoon made for worshipping the sun, University of California students, on a campus of 31,000 two blocks away, were strangely absent. So, too, were parents pushing strollers, school children on bikes and old people out for air.

No one denies the park's symbolic power. Born when a diverse group of residents and students decided in April 1969 to plant sod, flowers and playground equipment on an unused lot owned by the university, People's Park has received its bloody christening

a month later, when the university decided to take back its land in one of the most infamous domestic clashes of the Vietnam era.

So many different types of people protested the official overreaction to the park — 30,000 people in a city of 100,000 — that it became a worldwide symbol of the power of community.

But that was then. Since 1972, when activists tore down the chain-link fence the university had erected around it, People's Park has become the refuge for a cadre of fringe characters. Drug dealers and users, has-been hippies and would-be hippies and several societies of homeless people dug in their heels.

The university still owns the land, but leases it to the city. Each time it has tried asserting a new plan for the space, it clashes with those who want the park to remain as is.

But to many here, housing on the site is an idea whose time has come.

Kate Coleman, a journalist who helped tear down the fence to take over the park in 1972, said the community had tired of the park as a haven for the criminal element.

"If you go there now," Coleman said, "you're getting a sanitized view because the police have been sweeping it. I walked through last night and there was a basketball game going on and the gardeners were out gardening and I thought, 'This is nice.'"

But the question becomes, Are you going to have the police occupying the park all the time? There is this nasty underbelly out there when the police are not there.

By Katherine Knorr
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Vikram Seth is a natural dilettante, in the best sense of the word. When he was studying economics at Stanford University, he started spending his time with poets in the English department. When he got a Wallace Stegner fellowship to write poetry, he spent his time learning photography. When he began to write his dissertation, on Chinese village economies, he wrote his first novel instead, in verse. Some years later, he published "A Suitable Boy," a large fresco of a novel set in 1950s India against the background of religious and communal violence, which became an international best-seller. He never went back to the dissertation.

"That's always the case, isn't it? You're supposed to do something, you do something else," he said with a smile, starting with wry puzzlement at the preciously presented dishes in a restaurant near Notting Hill Gate. Born in Calcutta, of Hindi-speaking parents, he is a slightly built, dark-haired man with a wicked sense of humor, who seems, at 47, a kind of worldly-wise adolescent. As a polymath, he's also impossible to pigeonhole as a writer, which is pretty much his goal, to do something different each time: "You won't be bored; it's a way of spending a life."

His most recent novel, "An Equal Music," is like "A Suitable Boy," centered on a doomed love affair. But if "A Suitable Boy" was a vast opera, "An Equal Music" is a sonata, sublime and melancholy. "The Golden Gate" was his San Francisco novel — all alternative lifestyles, gender breakdowns and anti-military protests — and "Suitable Boy" was his India novel. This is his music novel.

"I've always loved music," he said, "but I've tried not to write about it because I loved it so much. I've always kept it as a kind of preserve. I was trained in Indian classical singing and I learned the tabla and a bit of Indian flute. But I

turned to Western music somewhat late. I did a bit of piano and cello but it's pointless coming to it at the age I came to it. I have friends who are musicians. I probably have more friends who are musicians than literary people, especially in London."

"An Equal Music" follows the strange downward spiral of Michael Holme, a butcher's son from the bleak north of England and the second violinist of the London-based Maggiore Quartet.

Michael seems curiously and permanently in mourning for his life. For Julia, a woman he left in Vienna 10 years before and could never track down again, for the destroyed movie houses and the sinister parking lots of Rochdale, for youth and the musical careers that might have been, for the teacher he turned against and who is dying, for the benefactor who may be dying, for the precious Italian violin he doesn't own and will never be able to buy.

In his late 30s, Michael's life is all music and at the same time all poetical tedium, gloomy walks through London, between rehearsals of the quartet, until he becomes a kind of high-class stalker. All with Schubert and Bach as the incidental and frequently melancholy music.

"A Suitable Boy" attracted a huge and enthusiastic public, most of whom had never set foot in India, but Seth writes first of all for the people who know the world he is talking about. "If musicians read 'An Equal Music' and say, Look, this isn't really true or something, or you glamorized our world, then I'd think that, no matter what glowing reviews I get from the general reader, I would feel that to some extent it's failed artistically because it's falsified. Because I tend to write realistic novels. I really think the clearest judgment would be obtained from them. I don't try to make things deliberately referential or obfuscating so the general reader can't read it. It's just that the truest judges are those whom I'm describing."

Realism and reality played a curious part in the success of "A



Vikram Seth is impossible to pigeonhole as a writer.

Suitable Boy," as severe communal violence broke out in India around the time of its publication. When he was writing "A Suitable Boy," he said, "I was harking back to the 1950s, and then things had died down for about 20 years. I had no idea that what I was writing about — the attacks of temples and mosques — actually would take place two months before the book — while the book was actually being typeset. They said, how prescient you were. But I wasn't prescient at all. I never knew something like that was going to happen. Or else they said, you're piggybacking on what's already happened, but I

couldn't have been blamed for that because it was already written."

Although he says he's not interested in literary theory (and calls the deconstructionists and other university litcrit types "the mad critics"), Seth is part of a contemporary trend among poets toward formalism. He was at Stanford at the same time as Dana Gioia, whose "Does Poetry Matter?" chronicled among other things the public estrangement from the confessional, anything goes poetry coming out of American universities. Seth informally studied with the poet Timothy Steele, who recently published a book on meter and versification.

"Trends in poetry are even in a sense more rigid than trends in fiction," Seth said. "Because at least in fiction, if something sells, then editors will publish it, but in poetry — poetry lists are the preserve of people who don't expect to sell and they don't expect their poetry list to make a profit so they just leave poetry editors to publish their friends and their fellow poets in their particular school of writing."

"The Golden Gate," which combines humor and sadness in sonnet form, is a wholly successful linking of formal poetry to modern moral dilemmas. Once he had seen Steele's verse, he said, "I realized that one could write about one's own times with a modern sensibility and yet use these forms which have existed in the language for hundreds of years, full of the resonance that they had and the clarity that they almost forced upon one."

After his early schooling in India, Seth went to Oxford, then Stanford. "I thought, oh my God, thick-headed beach boys and no intellectual conversation. But then I met people who were both very intelligent and interested in things of the mind, and also who would think nothing about teaching you to swim butterfly. For me it was like a revelation in a wonderful way. That's why 'The Golden Gate,' in a way, for all its tragedy, it's a happy book."

Swimming leads to some of the odder scenes in "An Equal Music," based on Seth's own experience as a member of the Serpentine Swimming Club. "You don't want to swallow too much of it, but if you did it wouldn't kill you. But now we have to sign all kinds of forms, how we won't sue anyone if we die," he said, laughing. "In the summer, it's a little — the algae. It's actually nicer in the winter, cold though it is. The only slight danger is not the ice but when the ice is just forming, because then you get those little slivers and shards that you can't always see, and they can tear into you. I love swimming there, the back stroke."

PEOPLE



Yuri Grigorovich giving last-minute instructions before the opening.

THE dancer and choreographer Mikhail Baryshnikov will perform at Toronto's Elgin Theatre in June with the White Oak Dance Project, the contemporary dance troupe he founded in 1990. He will dance in performances June 16 through 19, after a June 15 ceremony in which he will receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Toronto. The honor coincides with the 25th anniversary of Baryshnikov's defection from the Soviet Union, which took in Toronto in the summer of 1974.

The choreographer Yuri Grigorovich has returned to the stage in Moscow, with his first production there since he quit the Bolshoi Ballet three years ago. Grigorovich, who was artistic director of the Bolshoi for three decades until his resignation after a long-running dispute with the theater administration, brought his 1979 production of Prokofiev's "Romeo and Juliet" to the state theater in the Kremlin.

The funeral address by the brother of Diana, Princess of Wales, is to be studied

in British secondary schools starting this spring, it was announced Thursday. Earl Spencer's eulogy, in which he fired shots at the press and the British royal family and vowed to help raise her two sons, William and Harry, is to appear in a new English text book "Grammar in Context," Geoff Barton, deputy headmaster of Thurston Upper School, near Bury Saint Edmunds, in eastern England, said. "Diana was a role model for many of our students and Earl Spencer's speech

perfectly captured the emotions so many young people will have felt."

Cannes Festival Announces 1999 Lineup

The Associated Press

PARIS — Twenty-two films will vie for the Palme d'Or at the Cannes film festival this year, which runs from May 12-23: "Rosetta," Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, Belgium; "8½ Women," Peter Greenaway, Britain; "Wonderland," Michael Winterbottom, Britain; "Fellcia's Journey," Atom Egoyan, Canada; "The Emperor and the Assassin," Chen Kaige, China; "Pola X," Leos Carax, France; "L'Humanité," Bruno Dumont, France; "Le Temps Retrouvé," Raoul Ruiz, France; "Nos Vies Heureuses," Jacques Maillot, France; "Love Will Tear Us Apart," Yu Lik Wai, Hong Kong; "The Tales of Kish," Mohsen Makhmalbaf, Abolfaz Djallili and Nasser Taghvai, Iran; "Kadosh," Amos Gitai, Israel; "La Balla," Marco Bellocchio, Italy; "The Summer of Kikujiro," Takeshi Kitano, Japan; "No One Writes to the Colonel," Arturo Ripstein, Mexico; "A Carta," Manoel de Oliveira, Portugal; "Moloch," Alexander Sokourov, Russia and Germany; "All About My Mother," Pedro Almodovar, Spain; "Ghost Dog, the Way of the Samurai," Jim Jarmusch, U.S.; "The Cradle Will Rock," Tim Robbins, U.S.; "Limbo," John Sayles, U.S.; "The Straight Story," David Lynch, U.S.

Bob Dylan, Tom Petty, Jeff Lynne and George Harrison plan to get together next year to revive the Traveling Wilburys, 10 years after the group's unexpected success. The Wilburys, which also included Roy Orbison, produced two albums in 1988 and 1990. Petty said they would probably perform in public this time around. "It's likely it can happen next year," he said. "If we do it, we should perform like a real group."

The conductor Giuseppe Sinopoli has accepted a request by the musicians of the Staatskapelle in Dresden to continue to direct the orchestra until 2007. Sinopoli, 52, who has conducted the orchestra since 1992, was already under contract to stay until 2002. He also said that he would end his involvement with the Rome Opera at the end of May to concentrate on Dresden.



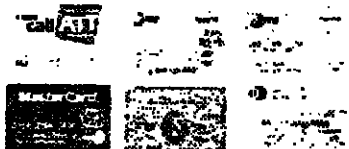
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